■ Saturday Special / C1
Jasmine Trias: And then there were three

■ World / A8
Sonia Gandhi to take over as India's PM

■ Super / J1
A Pitt stop with Brad

■ News / A2
600 Pinoys quit jobs in Iraq, fly to Dubai

■ Sports / A26
Lakers sneak past Spurs, lead series

■ News / A6
Usec Ching Suva retires after 42 years of Palace service

Now, Erap wants to go to a children's party

PA'NO NAMAN YUNG IBA PANG MGA ANAK?

By Armand N. Nocum

THIS IS another special day for ousted President Joseph Estrada. Jacob, his youngest son with actress Laarni Enriquez, turns 8 today and he

NOW/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Exit poll shows 900,000 were denied right to vote

A MAJOR foul-up in official voters' lists left nearly a million people unable to cast their ballots in the May 10 elections, according to estimates of a private polling group.

Social Weather Stations (SWS), whose exit poll showed President Macapagal-Arroyo would win by 3 million votes over actor Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday said it had estimated from

EXIT POLL/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, May 15, 2004 ★★★ 80 pages / 11 sections / vol. 19 / no. 157 P18

website: www.inq7.net

GMA asks Cabinet to resign

President also orders values commission formed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE STRATEGY of President Macapagal-Arroyo appears to be to focus on exuding confidence and looking presidential.

In anticipation of a fresh six-year mandate, Ms Macapagal has ordered all members of her Cabinet to hand in their courtesy resignations apparently to give her a free hand in forming a new team.

The demand for courtesy resignations has bolstered reports that the President had promised to reshuffle her Cabinet as part of her commitment to religious sects and charismatic organizations during the campaign period.

Another concession that she reportedly assured these groups was the setting up of a commission that would promote values formation in the government.

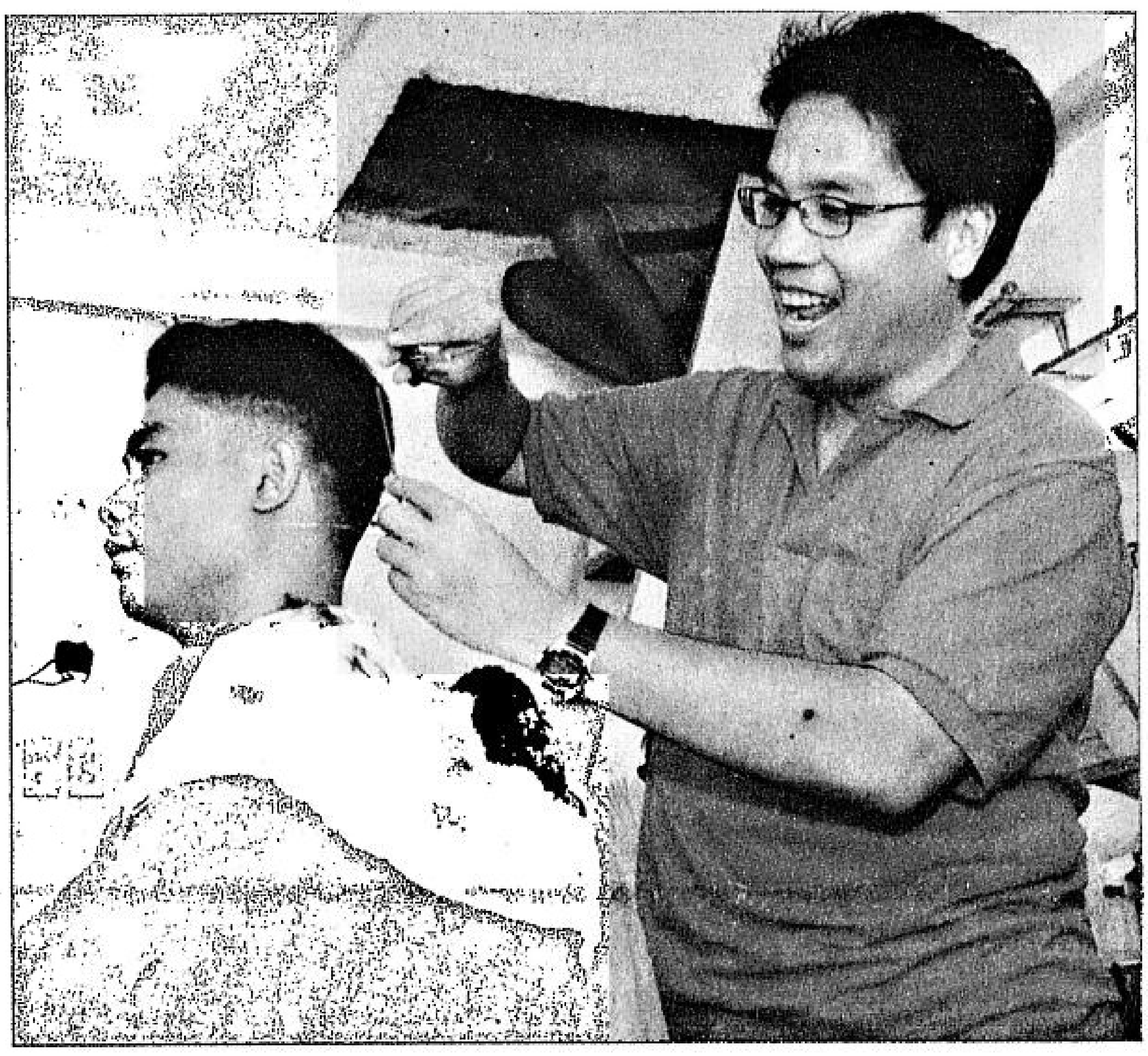
Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday announced Ms Macapagal's issuance of Executive Order No. 314 creating the Presidential Commission on Values Formation (PCVF).

The six-member PCVF will be the government's lead unit in its effort to eradicate from the bureaucracy graft and corruption, patronage politics, apathy, passivity, mendicancy, factionalism and lack of patriotism.

It shall make recommendations to the President to fire "incorrigible and undesirable government personnel," as well as undertake programs that would instill values such as honesty, modesty, integrity and a good work ethic in government employees.

At a briefing, Bunye said the courtesy resignations were normal because the hold of the Cabi-

GMA/ A10



CONSISTENTLY on top of the Senate race, Mar Roxas surprises residents of Barangay Damayan Lagi on E. Rodriguez Street, Quezon City, as he goes to a barber shop and, being "Mr. Palengke" also goes to market, his way of saying thanks.

JOAN BONDOC

JoeCon fumes as Namfrel is accused of cheating

By Cynthia D. Balana and Philip C. Tubeza

HE WAS so furious smoke was almost coming out of his ears.

"*Kung sino ka mang may gawa nito, kung talagang lalaki ka, pumunta ka dito at tignan mo kung nandadaya nga kami ...* (Whoever you are that did this, if you are man enough, come here and see for yourself if we are cheating)," poll watchdog Jose Concepcion fumed as disputes raged yesterday over the slow vote count in the wake of Monday's national elections.

"*Walang dayaan dito* (There is no cheating going on here)," the visibly exhausted chair of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) said before television cameras.

An anonymous flyer accusing Namfrel of manipulating the election results and distributed on Thursday night at its tabulation center at La Salle Greenhills, had provoked Concepcion's wrath.

JOECON/ A10

ELEKSYON 2004
QUICK COUNT (PARTIAL, UNOFFICIAL)

NAMFREL 29,821 out of 216,382 precincts
As of 7 p.m., May 14, 2004

	PRESIDENT	VOTES
1	Macapagal-Arroyo, Gloria	1,598,165
2	Poe, Fernando Jr. K.	1,548,693
3	Lacson, Panfilo M.	513,023
4	Villanueva, Eduardo C.	272,124
5	Roco, Raul S.	269,006
	VICE PRESIDENT	
1	De Castro, Noli L.	2,018,742
2	Legarda, Loren B.	1,833,033
3	Aquino, Herminio S.	149,795
4	Pajo, Rodolfo T.	4,110
	SENATORS	
1	Roxas, Mar Manuel II A.	2,608,305
2	Revilla, "Bong" Ramon Jr. B.	2,071,059
3	Pimentel, Aquilino, Jr. Q.	2,048,783
4	Madrigal, Jamby A.S.	1,821,009
5	Gordon, Richard J.	1,783,694
6	Cayetano, Pia Juliana S.	1,720,689
7	Lim, Alfredo S.	1,699,109
8	Santiago, Miriam D.	1,648,984
9	Estrada, Jinggoy E.	1,568,841
10	Biazon, Rodolfo G.	1,531,841
11	Enrile, Juan P.	1,505,611
12	Barbers, Robert Z.	1,457,596
13	Maceda, Ernesto M.	1,396,585
14	Lapid, Manuel M.	1,366,324
15	Osmeña, John Henry R.	1,328,157
16	Mercado, Orlando S.	1,201,854
17	Tatad, Francisco S.	899,868
18	Jaworski, Robert S.	899,716
19	Anson-Roa, Ma.Elisa Boots C.	872,056
20	Yasay, Perfecto Jr.	837,474

FPJ cuts by half GMA lead in Namfrel quick count

By Cynthia D. Balana

ACTOR Fernando Poe Jr. cut by almost half last night the lead of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the quick count by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

In Namfrel's tally as of 7 p.m., Ms Macapagal's votes totaled 1,598,165, still ahead of Poe's 1,548,693 votes. Her lead, however, went down to 49,472 from the 95,892 as of 9 p.m. Thursday.

Like Poe, his running mate Sen. Loren Legarda was able to cut Noli de Castro's lead by nearly half.

De Castro, Ms Macapagal's running mate, had 2,018,742 votes against Legarda's 1,833,033 votes, for a difference of 185,709 votes.

In the presidential race, Sen. Panfilo Lacson was still third with 513,023 votes, followed by Bro. Eddie Villanueva with 272,124 votes and, finally, Raul Roco with 269,006 votes.

Poe was fast catching up with Ms Macapagal as results from some of his bailiwicks started coming in.

The President was slightly ahead of Poe in the Bicol region. She maintained her big lead in Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Caraga, Cordillera Autonomous Region and the Overseas Vote (OV).

Poe, on the other hand, was leading by a big margin in Ilocos, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, Southern Mindanao, Central Mindanao and Metro Manila.

Only a few returns were coming in from Cagayan, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Caraga.

Jose Concepcion Jr., Namfrel national chair, said reports from other regions were still coming in in trickles although

FPJ CUTS/ A10

When charisma collides with political reality

By Amando Doronila

(Last of two parts)

ANALYSIS

THE PRESIDENTIAL campaign of Fernando Poe Jr. was a communications disaster from the start.

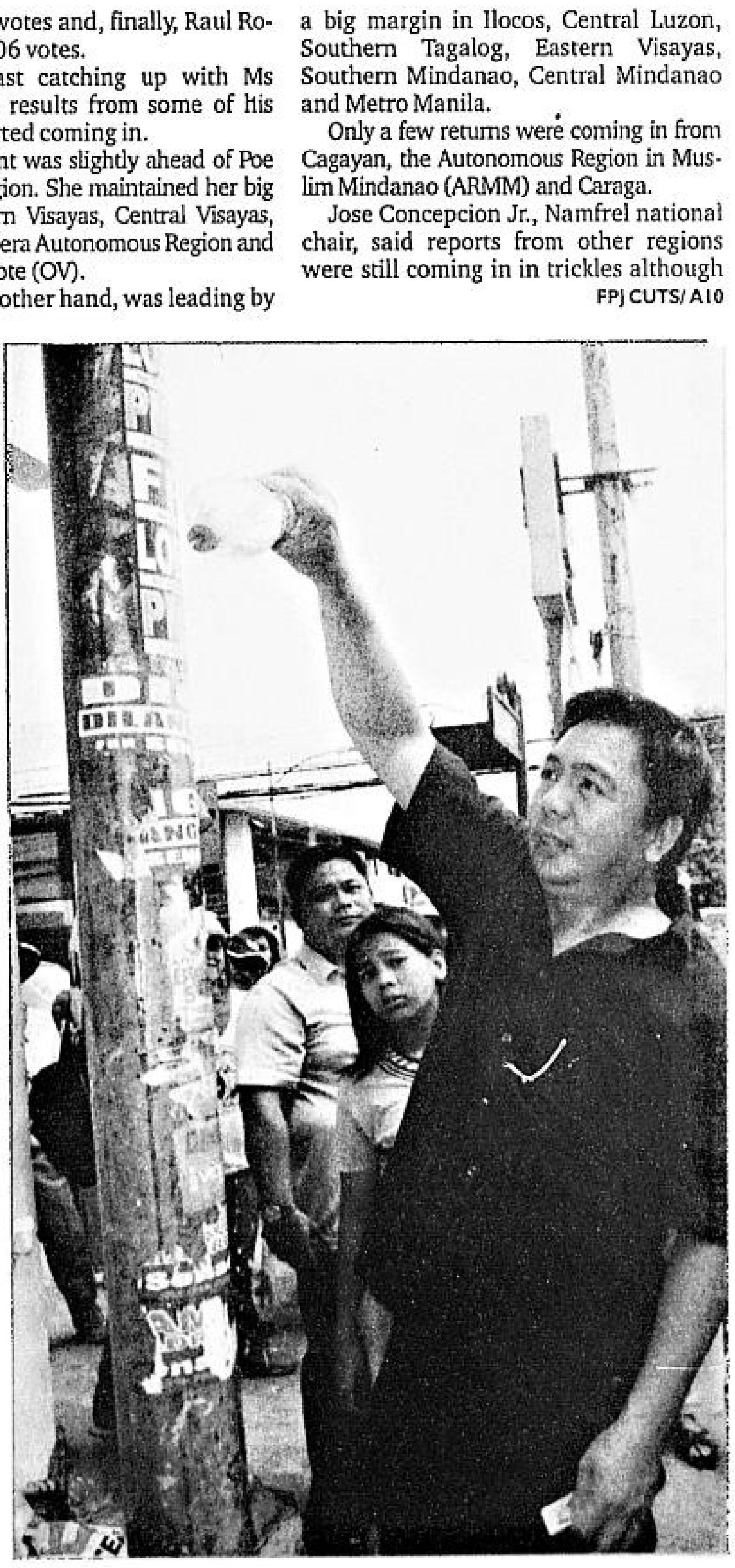
As it battled the well-oiled K-4 machine, Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino was plagued by bitter splits among its factions. It ran a campaign on board a machine in appalling disarray. The internal conflicts nullified and made a mockery of one of its main campaign themes—bringing about national unity.

The campaign had no platform to stand on. It relied mainly on Poe's box-office charisma. In short, it collapsed from the weight of its own heavy baggage.

The picture of a campaign saddled with corrosive elements of disintegration that primed it for implosion was drawn by some key members of the KNP media team whom I interviewed as the KNP prepared to contest the election results with so far flimsy allegations of poll irregularities.

The disintegration of the campaign was high-

WHEN CHARISMA/ A22



JOAN BONDOC

DIRTY POLITICS
After the messy campaign comes the even more messy job of cleaning up after the politicos. MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando shows how.

KNP offers reward for proof of election fraud

THE KOALISYON ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino is offering a reward to anyone who can provide proof that its standard-bearer, Fernando Poe Jr., is being robbed of his votes.

"The reward is for anyone who can produce a document or hard evidence against those who are cheating in this election," Leo Magno, a member of the KNP national secretariat, said at a press conference in Davao City late Thursday afternoon. He said the reward would be "substantial" but did not provide specifics.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, KNP campaign manager, said on Thursday that the KNP and Bangon Pilipinas would present evidence of election fraud to Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal on Sunday.

Magno told reporters that all the KNP had been receiving were reports from its people in the field about alleged massive cheating and disenfranchisement of its supporters.

He said another supposed indication that the administration was trying to rig the election results was the refusal of the boards of election inspectors to provide KNP watchers copies of election

KNP OFFERS/ A10

Gloria widens call for reconciliation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

LEAVE THE hurt behind.

Already sounding like a winner before a clear trend had emerged in the unofficial vote count, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday broadened her call for reconciliation to include all opposition groups.

Malacañang said Ms Macapagal wished the opposition would respond positively to her offer of "genuine reconciliation" following the fiercely contested national elections.

"We must leave the hurt and rancor of the contest behind and take the high road of national consolidation," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Bunye added: "The people expect no less of their leaders so that we can get the nation back on track to face the pressing challenges in the horizon."

Malacañang made the call in the face of grumbling from her opponents—specifically actor Fernando Poe Jr.—about alleged administration cheating in the elections. *(Story on this page.)*

Bunye said no one should doubt the President's offer of unity and reconciliation, adding: "Her whole campaign was focused on gather-

GLORIA/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/15/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

600 Filipinos quit Iraq jobs

By Jerome Aning and Juliet Labog-Javellana

ABOUT 600 of the 1,300 Filipino workers at Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq, have quit their jobs because they fear for their safety, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Eric Endaya, Philippine chargé d'affaires to Iraq, said the resigned workers were flown from Balad to the headquarters of their employer, Prime Projects International, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The workers would be arriving in Manila by batches beginning this weekend.

Mess halls

"The Filipinos don't want to work anymore in the mess halls, laundry and fuel depot. There's a paralysis of work in Balad because of fear," Endaya said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday served notice to her American and Iraqi allies that the Philippines would forcibly evacuate its workers from Iraq to get them out of harm's way.

But the President has yet to order the actual evacuation amid the clamor of some Filipino workers in Iraq to be immediately repatriated.

High-risk areas

She has directed the DFA and the Iraq Team headed by Ambassador Roy Cimatu to "speed up the identification of areas of high risk to Filipinos."

"We will not hesitate to undertake forced evacuations should our security assessments so dictate," the President said in a statement. "The US and Iraqi authorities must be apprised of our intentions as our workers face evolving threats and challenges."

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said on Thursday that Ms Macapagal was expecting Cimatu's team to give its recommendation any time.

She said Filipino workers in Iraq who strongly feel they are at risk "must be assisted to come home immediately."

The decision was made in light of Tuesday's attack on Camp Anaconda, where Filipino warehouseman Raymund Natividad was killed and four others were injured. The camp is a military air base run by the United States, which is leading the multinational coalition occupying Iraq.

Injured identified

The DFA identified the injured workers as Ronald Dayao, Leopoldo Soliman, Emetrio Payna and Jaime Banaria. Dayao, the worst injured, is recuperating at a hospital in Baghdad.

This latest death follows the killing last month of a Filipino truck driver in an ambush by insurgents on the main road linking Baghdad with Kuwait.

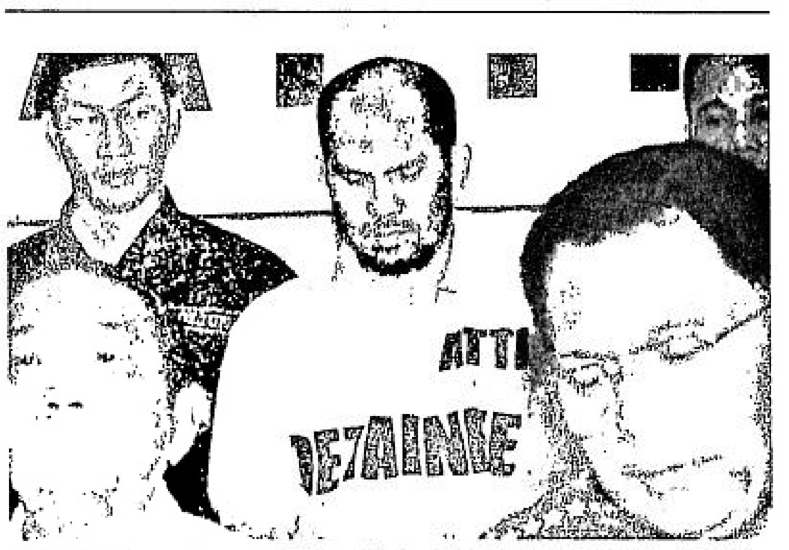
The government had previously suspended the deployment of Filipino civilian workers to Iraq after the incident, but officials concede that people can still find ways of circumventing this ban.

4,000 Pinoy workers

There are about 4,000 overseas Filipino workers in Iraq, all of them working in camps, bases and other facilities run by the coalition. The Filipinos were deployed by firms from neighboring countries such as the UAE, Jordan, Turkey and Kuwait to provide manpower services for the coalition troops and personnel.

A small contingent of 43 Filipino soldiers and eight policemen is based with a multinational force at the town of Hilla in central Iraq.

Under government plans, they will be put in charge of implementing any evacuation of Filipinos in case trouble worsens. *With AFP*



MUNDUS (center), suspected conduit for funds from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, is presented to media by Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita and PNP Chief Director Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. in Camp Aguinaldo Friday. JOAN BONDOC

Bin Laden man in RP captured

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE intelligence agents have captured a Filipino who allegedly acted as a conduit for funds from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network to finance terror and kidnapping activities of the Abu Sayyaf, police officials said yesterday.

Khair Malvan Mundus, alias Ayman, 40, was arrested in Zamboanga City on May 3 by the Philippine National Police intelligence group, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita told a press briefing where the suspect was presented.

Ermita, who is chief of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, said Mundus was a "direct intermediary of al-Qaida funds" channeled to Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani to be used in "bombing and terroristic activities."

The announcement came a week after Ermita said security forces had uncovered a funding link between al-Qaida and the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah following the arrest of a suspected JI financier and an Abu Sayyaf logistics cell in Mindanao.

It was the second major arrest by the Ermita-led Anti-Terrorism Task Force on a believed to have links to the al-Qaida and the regional terror ring, the JI.

Jordan Mamso Abdullah, a currency trader in Cotabato City, was arrested on April 3. Abdullah is said to have laundered $25,000 from the JI to the ASG which were deposited in several bank accounts.

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane said Mundus was a much bigger catch than Jordan "because he became a direct source of funds for the ASG."

"He also negotiated and solicited money in Saudi Arabia for the Janjalanis," the PNP chief said.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, the head of the PNP intelligence group, explained the money trail from the al-Qaida through Mundus to the Abu Sayyaf.

Rafanan said Mundus was in Saudi Arabia from 1996 to 2003, purportedly as an Arabic language student, and traveled frequently to and from the Philippines.

Using his student status as a cover, Mundus allegedly helped seek funds from the al-Qaida for the Abu Sayyaf and had dealings with Al Haramain, a charitable organization that has been tagged by foreign intelligence sources as a front for al-Qaida.

Mundus first worked with Abdurajak Janjalani, the group's founder who was killed in a gunfight with police in December 1998.

Mundus told his interrogators he had arranged for the transfer of funds to Khadaffy Janjalani, who succeeded his slain brother as Abu Sayyaf leader, from 2001 to 2003 through domestic bank accounts under aliases.

Mundus managed to raise $89,000, or about P5 million, which he deposited in accounts in the Arraji Bank in Saudi Arabia and the Arab National Bank.

These funds were later transferred to accounts in the Zamboanga City and Cotabato City branches of Philippine banks under the names of two still unnamed individuals whom police are still tracking down.

The funds were later withdrawn and found their way into the hands of Janjalani who allegedly used them to launch terror acts in Mindanao and Metro Manila. These include at least six bombings in Zamboanga City in 2002, a failed bomb attacks on a passenger bus bound for Laguna and the LRT central station in Metro Manila in 2002 and the bombing of a Golden Hi-way bus on Oct. 18, 2002 in Balintawak, Quezon City.

About P2.76 million of the funds went to the purchase of supplies and equipment for the Abu Sayyaf, including rifles, uniforms and a speedboat that was used in the kidnappings at the Dos Palmas resort in May 2001.

6 killed in 2 train accidents in Quezon

TIAONG, Quezon—At least six people were killed and two others seriously injured in two separate accidents in Quezon involving trains of the Philippine National Railways, police reported yesterday.

Four of the victims were onion dealers from Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, who were on their way to deliver their produce to Bicol.

They were killed when their passenger-type jeep, loaded with 40 sacks of red onions, collided with the third coach of a Manila-bound train in the railroad crossing in Barangay Lalig, Tiaong, at about 3 a.m. yesterday. The speeding train dragged their jeep from some 30 meters.

Chief Insp. Ricardo Villanueva, head of the 415th Provincial Police Mobile Group based in Candelaria town, identified the casualties as Reynaldo Viscara, 44, and his brothers Cresencio, 33, and Samuel, 32; and Crispin Natividad.

A third Viscara brother, Joel, 30, and the driver, Antonio Domingador, escaped death but suffered serious injuries. The two are now confined at Liwag Hospital here.

The engineers of train 917 were identified as Ben Saga and Jay Estrada.

Villanueva said the driver of the passenger jeep may not have been familiar with the road.

"The jeep may have been traveling too fast with the driver probably thinking that it was a straight highway without any railway crossing before him," he said.

On Thursday evening, two persons were also killed by a Manila-bound train in Barangay Bagacay, Lopez, Quezon.

A police report identified the victims as Allan Lastimosa and Melchor Jordan, both residents of Calauag town. The two were on their way home from a drinking spree in the village and were walking along the railroad tracks when they were hit by the speeding train. They both died instantly. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Vice mayor killed; death toll hits 143

By Anselmo Roque, *PDI Central Luzon Desk* **and Artha Kira Paredes,** *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE DEATH toll in election-related violence throughout the country rose to 143 yesterday with the killing of two persons, including a newly proclaimed vice mayor in Luzon, reports said.

In Mindanao, grenades were lobbed in three places although no deaths or injuries were reported.

Police identified the vice mayor as Joselito Cruz, 44, of General Natividad town in Nueva Ecija. He was gunned down before midnight on Thursday, police said.

Cruz, of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party, had been proclaimed on Wednesday.

Luz Nava-Cruz, the vice mayor's wife, said two men approached her husband in front of their house in the town center and greeted him, "*Magandang gabi, po* (Good evening, sir)."

After the greeting, Mrs. Cruz said, one of the men shot her husband. The second suspect then fired at the fallen Cruz to make sure he was dead.

In Abra, a supporter of a losing mayoral candidate in Bangued town was killed while three others were wounded when they were attacked by a follower of a rival candidate in Barangay Cabuluan also on Thursday.

Police said barangay *tanod* Moteo Bolor, a supporter of mayoral candidate Dominic Valera, was gunned down allegedly by Asiong Bayle, a follower of reelected Mayor Ma. Zita Valera.

Bolor's three companions, identified as Anton Valera and siblings Christopher and Mal-ong Buenafe, were wounded in the attack.

Bayle surrendered to police. He said no one ordered him to attack the group, but he claimed he had been receiving death threats from Bolor so he attacked him.

In the Nueva Ecija incident, Mrs. Cruz said Thursday was the day of the General Natividad fiesta and she and her husband had just seen their last visitors out when the two men arrived.

She said her husband, a councilor before he ran for vice mayor, had received death threats prior to the attack.

She said he told her and their four children that if anything happened to him, it would be the fault of a certain politician in the town. She did not identify the politician.

Police investigators recovered .45-cal. and 9-mm pistol shells from the crime scene.

The suspects, police said, fled aboard a waiting van.

Emmanuel Ignacio, Nueva Ecija provincial election supervisor, said the top vote-getter among the town's new councilors would be proclaimed vice mayor in Cruz's place.

In Mindanao, in General Santos City, a rifle grenade exploded on the roof of the city hall shortly before noon yesterday while the canvassing of election returns was being conducted inside.

In Cotabato City, two suspects early yesterday lobbed a grenade near the city hall, where ballots were being kept pending the resumption of the canvass on Sunday.

Poll officials stopped then decided to continue with the canvass in General Santos City.

The rifle grenade damaged cables and blew holes in two of the four satellite dishes on the roof, which were being used by the local Commission on Elections office to transmit data to the central office in Manila.

No one was hurt in the explosions.

General Santos Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. ordered city employees to halt their work. He blamed his political rivals for the incident.

"For two years, despite the armed encounters and terrorist attacks in other parts of Central Mindanao, this city remained peaceful. Who else do you think would do this," Acharon said. *With Aquiles Z. Zonio and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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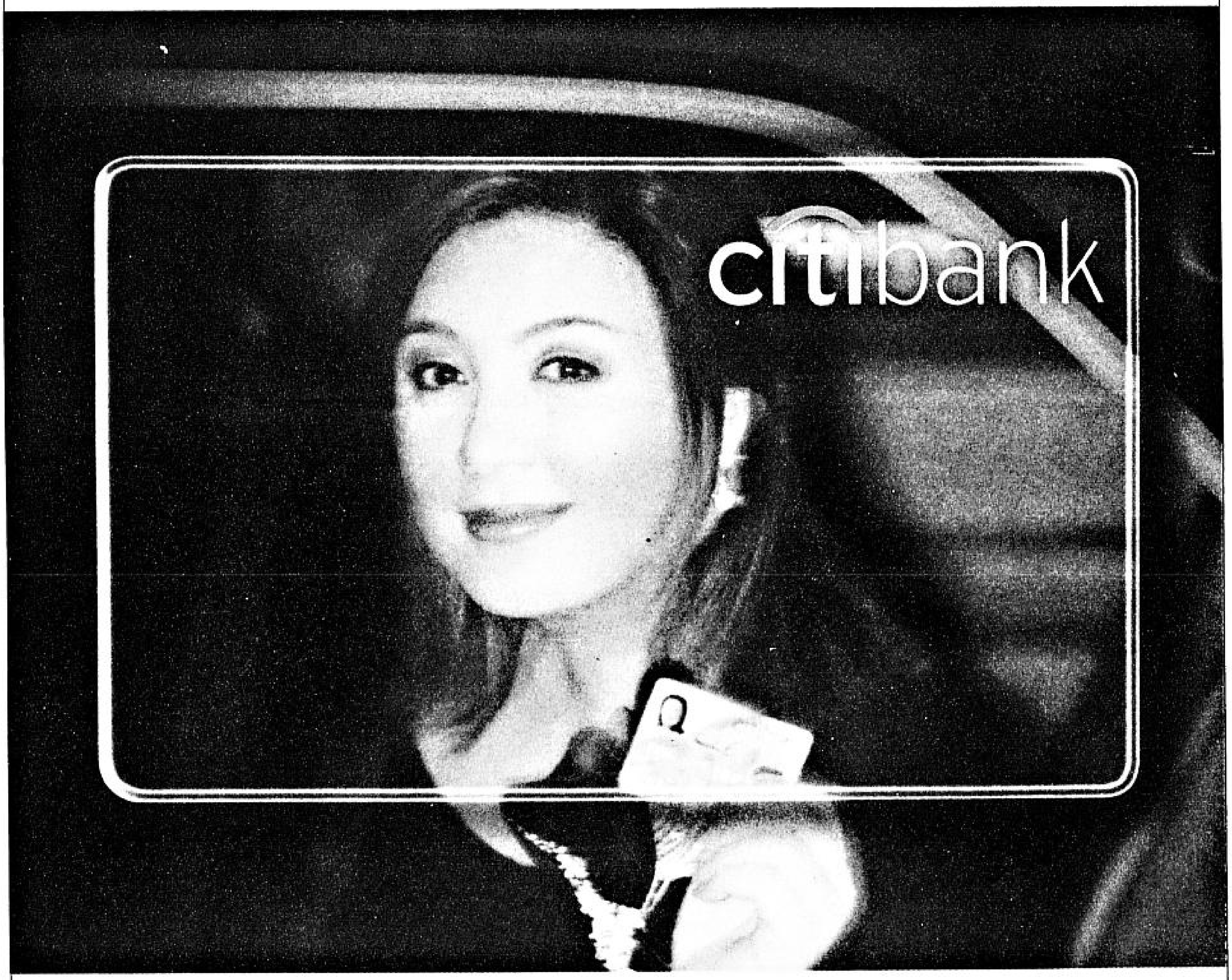

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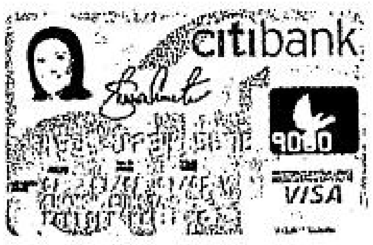

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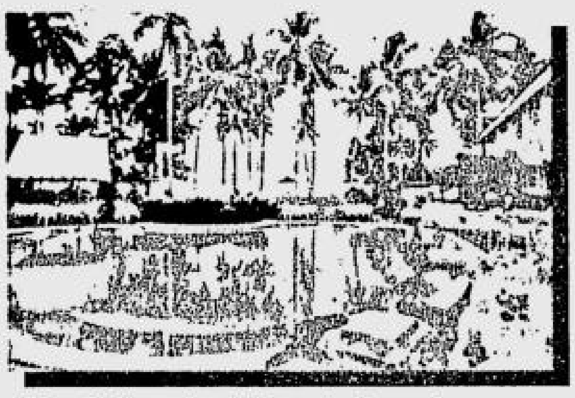
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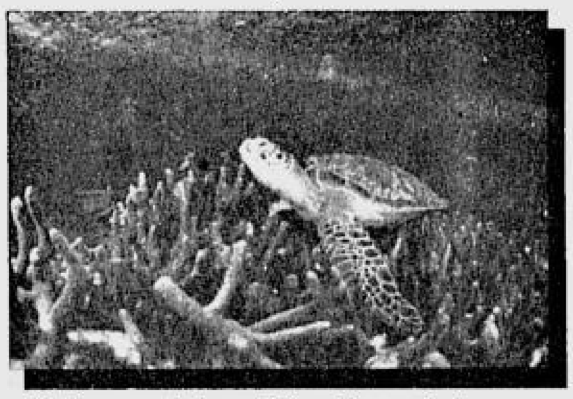
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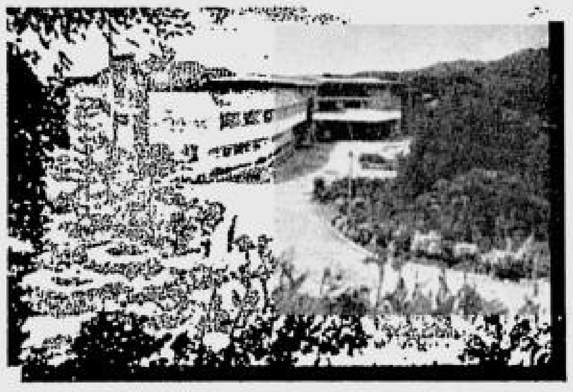
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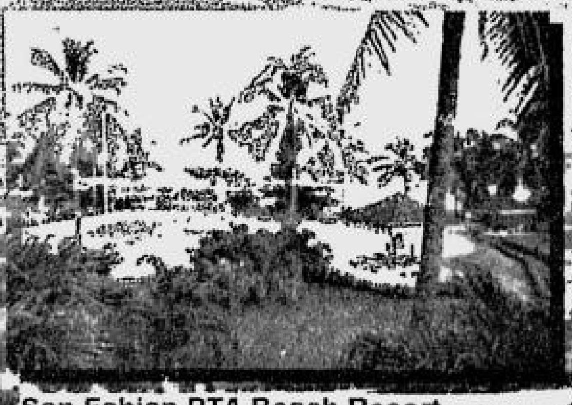
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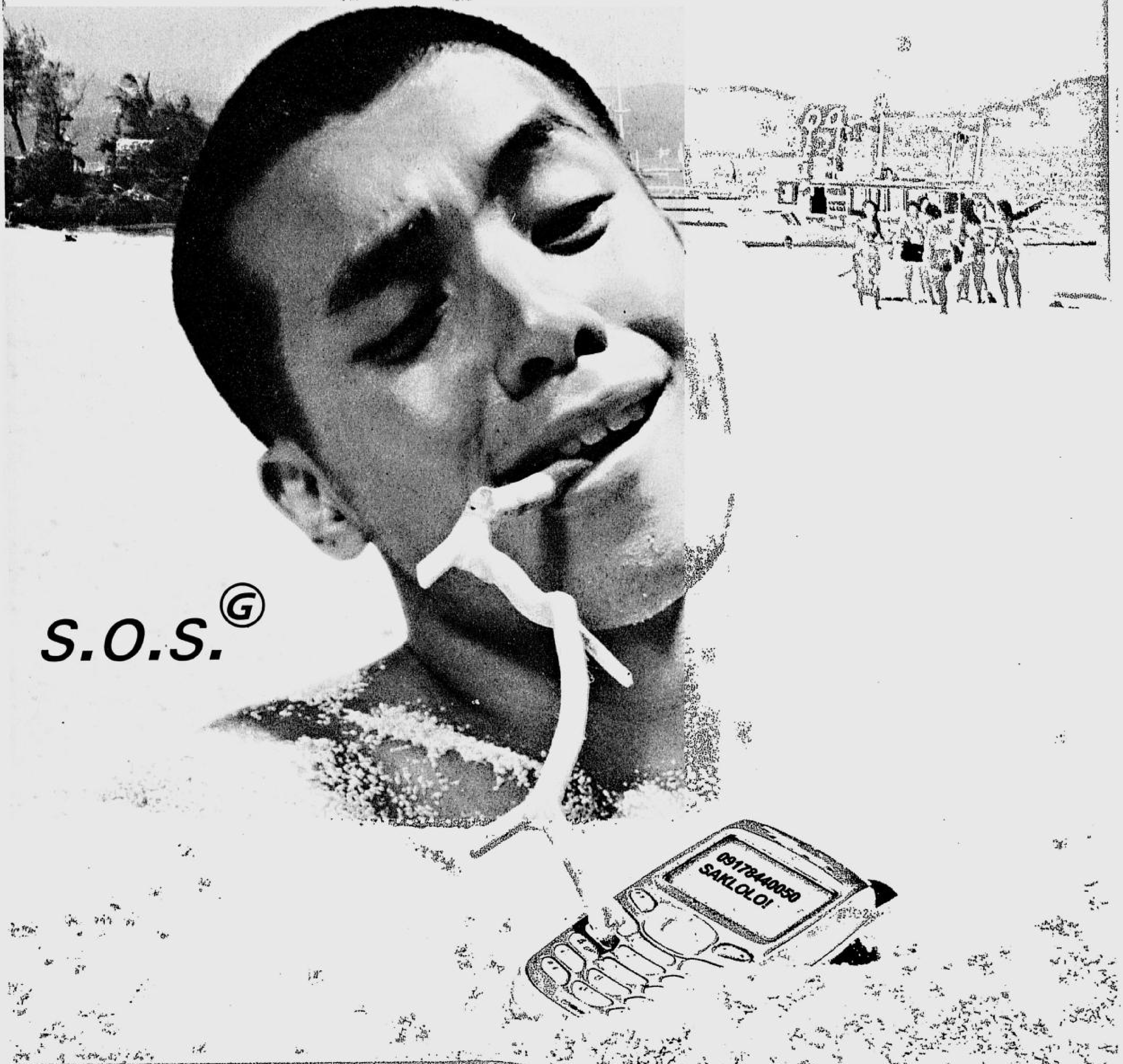
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Nothing's going to stop us–Binay

By Carlito Pablo

NOTHING'S going to stop supporters of actor Fernando Poe Jr., trailing behind front-runner President Macapagal-Arroyo in the tabulation of partial election results, from taking to the streets.

With or without the backing of presidential candidates Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former education secretary Raul Roco, and despite government threats to unleash the full force of the law against them, Poe supporters are not about to be cowed into silence.

"We are together on the issue of clean and honest elections," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, overall campaign manager of the Poe-led Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino. *"Kung makukulong, makukulong* (If get thrown into jail, so be it)," he said.

"The bottom line is we have a Constitution and freedom of speech," said the former street parliamentarian who made a name during the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

The Lacson and Roco camps had announced that they are not joining street rallies to protest alleged massive irregularities in the May 10 national and local elections.

Poe himself had claimed he won the elections, but said he is being cheated in the counting of the votes.

Binay assured authorities that the Poe camp would not violate any law in protesting what it claimed to be "systematic electoral fraud."

"We are working in the purview of the law," said the former human rights lawyer, adding that he could not help but compare the current situation to conditions during martial law. "It's a replay of what happened before. If you stage rallies, they slap you with sedition charges," he said.

Lawyers are gathering evidence to prove allegations of widespread fraud, said Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the opposition coalition that backed Poe. He also accused the local media and polling groups of colluding with the administration to project a Macapagal victory.

"FPJ himself advised all of us to wait for the count and to wait for the evidence," Angara said when asked if Poe planned to follow the advice of his friend and backer, deposed President Joseph Estrada, who reportedly urged supporters to join protest actions.

Angara charged the Commission on Elections had inflated the estimates for voter turnout so the administration could produce more fake votes for Macapagal.

Non-government monitors said the slow count and disorderly voting had "opened the door for the probability of fraud and cheating after election day," according to Fr. Jose Dizon, without naming the suspects. *With a report from AFP*

Press usec Suva retires, assails anti-graft body

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AFTER serving six presidents and 15 press secretaries, Press Undersecretary Carmencita Suva ends her 42 years of service to Malacañang today.

Well-loved and known for being soft-spoken, Suva who is fondly called "Tita Ching" by Palace reporters, surprised everyone when she spewed fighting words during a glowing tribute and farewell party for her at the Kalayaan Hall in Malacañang. *(See photo on Page A22.)*

In a speech at the end of a four-hour program, Suva said she was forced to retire after being accused by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) of graft in connection with her alleged failure to declare a 1999 model Toyota Tamaraw in her statement of assets.

She said she lost her self-confidence even if the PAGC and the Office of the President (OPS) eventually cleared her last month, or two months after the anti-graft commission charged her.

"The case I just hurdled gave me the deepest wounds that I am still nursing up to now but whoever my detractors were, I have forgiven them. But I can never forget. For how can one forget how the experience has caused me such deep depression and embarrassment that I almost forgot who I was and what I did all my life to deserve such a torture?" Suva said.

She called on government officials to grant everyone their right to due process.

Suva started as a secretary at the OPS in 1962. Her uninterrupted service spanned the presidencies of Diosdado Macapagal, Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Macapagal's daughter Gloria.

The PAGC investigated Suva after a woman from Tondo, who turned out to be non-existent, called to report her alleged mansions in Laguna and Nueva Ecija. These were proven false but the PACG charged her for the vehicle that was owned by her son-in-law.

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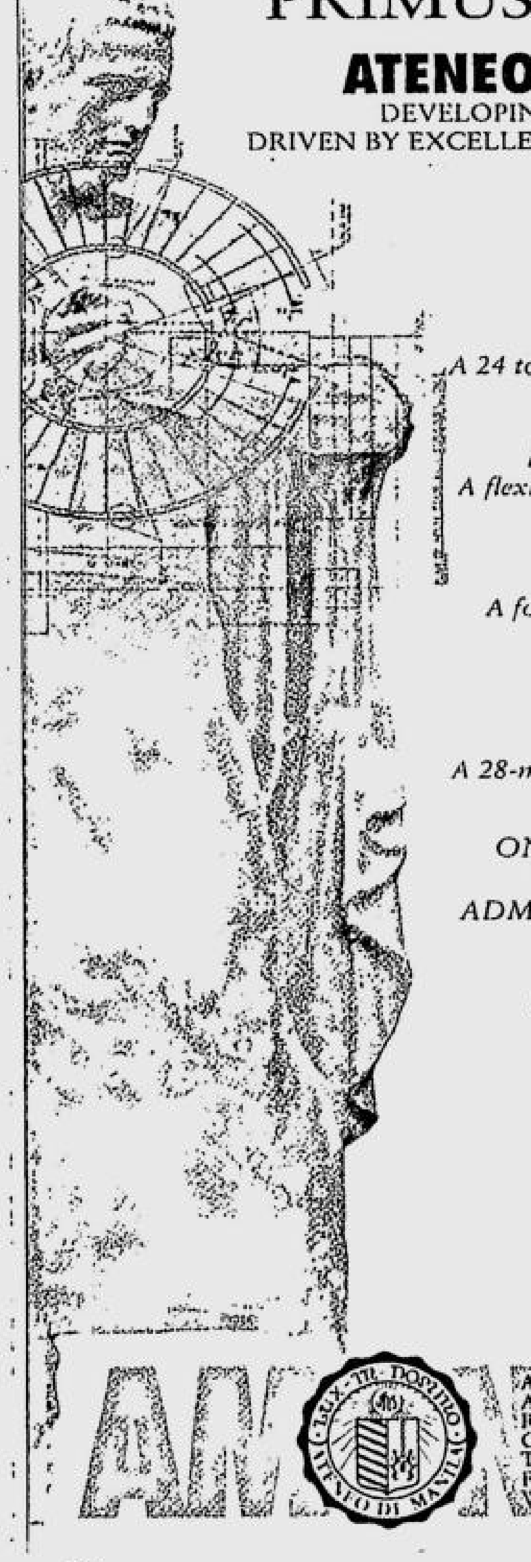

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ARROYO OVER LOZADA

'Jose Pidal' goes to Congress

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ARROYO

BACOLOD CITY—"Jose Pidal" is now a member of the 13th Congress.

Presidential brother-in-law Ignacio Arroyo was yesterday proclaimed congressman of Negros Occidental's fifth district.

He won by a margin of more than 20,000 votes, garnering 66,933 votes against his closest rival, Alejandro Mirasol, who got 46,443 votes. Incumbent Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada finished last at 31,333.

Aside from Arroyo, also proclaimed winner yesterday was incumbent Rep. Charlie Cojuangco of the fourth district, son of business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

Cojuangco secured a third term with an overwhelming margin of 70,000 votes, even if he was with his ailing wife Rio Diaz, in the US throughout the campaign period.

Although people here fondly call him "Iggy," Arroyo is more famous as "Jose Pidal," having last year declared before a Senate blue ribbon committee that he owned a bank account under the said name.

Senator Panfilo Lacson, in August last year, accused First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of allegedly laundering P270 million from President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign contributions, some of which were kept in bank accounts under the name Jose Pidal.

But while Ignacio Arroyo admitted he was Jose Pidal, he denied that the account contained campaign contributions for his sister-in-law. He said the account was opened before the Anti-Money Laundering Law was enacted and that it had been closed since. Jose Pidal was his personal account and it did not contain any campaign contribution.

After his proclamation yesterday, Arroyo offered reconciliation to his opponents.

He also thanked his constituents and vowed to "deliver my promises," which include putting up sub district offices in each town and city of the fifth district that covers Binalbagan, Isabela, Hinigaran, Moises Padilla and La Castellana.

Cojuangco, on the other hand, was proclaimed yesterday even without the results of Valladolid and Pontevedra towns because his overwhelming lead was enough to cover the votes of both towns. He was also leading by a wide margin in unofficial counts.

He got 81,825 votes while his opponent Paulo Colmenares only had 11,084 votes, or a margin of more than 70,000 votes.

Cojuangco won even if he was not able to campaign and vote. He was in San Francisco with wife Rio, who is stricken with cancer and required surgery to drain her lungs of fluid.

Cojuangco was also unable to attend his proclamation yesterday. Instead, he sent a statement which said that he considers it an honor and a challenge to be given an overwhelming mandate "under extraordinary circumstances when my family and I are going through trying times."

"I will not forget. My family will not forget. On this happy occasion of my proclamation, allow me to renew my commitment to continue building the district (according) to our dreams," he added.

On his third term, Cojuangco said his district would enter a "new political team with a unity that has not been seen in years."

National canvass of votes starts today

By Martin P. Marfil

THE NATIONAL canvass of votes for senatorial candidates and party-list groups starts today, a day after the Commission on Elections directed its Boards of Canvassers nationwide to speed up the process and proclaim the winners if there are no protests.

The canvass will start around 10 a.m. at the tightly guarded Philippine International Convention Center complex in Pasay City.

The National Board of Canvassers, composed of the commission en banc, is set to canvass the results contained in 166 overseas and domestic Certificates of Canvass or COCs.

According to Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, the commission has reiterated its earlier directive to BOCs to facilitate the canvassing of votes and immediately transmit these to the national office.

The order was issued yesterday, a day before the start of the national canvass of the votes for the senatorial candidates and party-list groups.

As of yesterday afternoon, Borra said that they have received Certificates of Canvass or COCs from two provinces, Zambales and Aurora, and several overseas posts.

In the same interview, Borra reminded candidates that they have to submit their reports regarding campaign contributions and campaign expenditures 30 days after the May 10 elections, or June 11.

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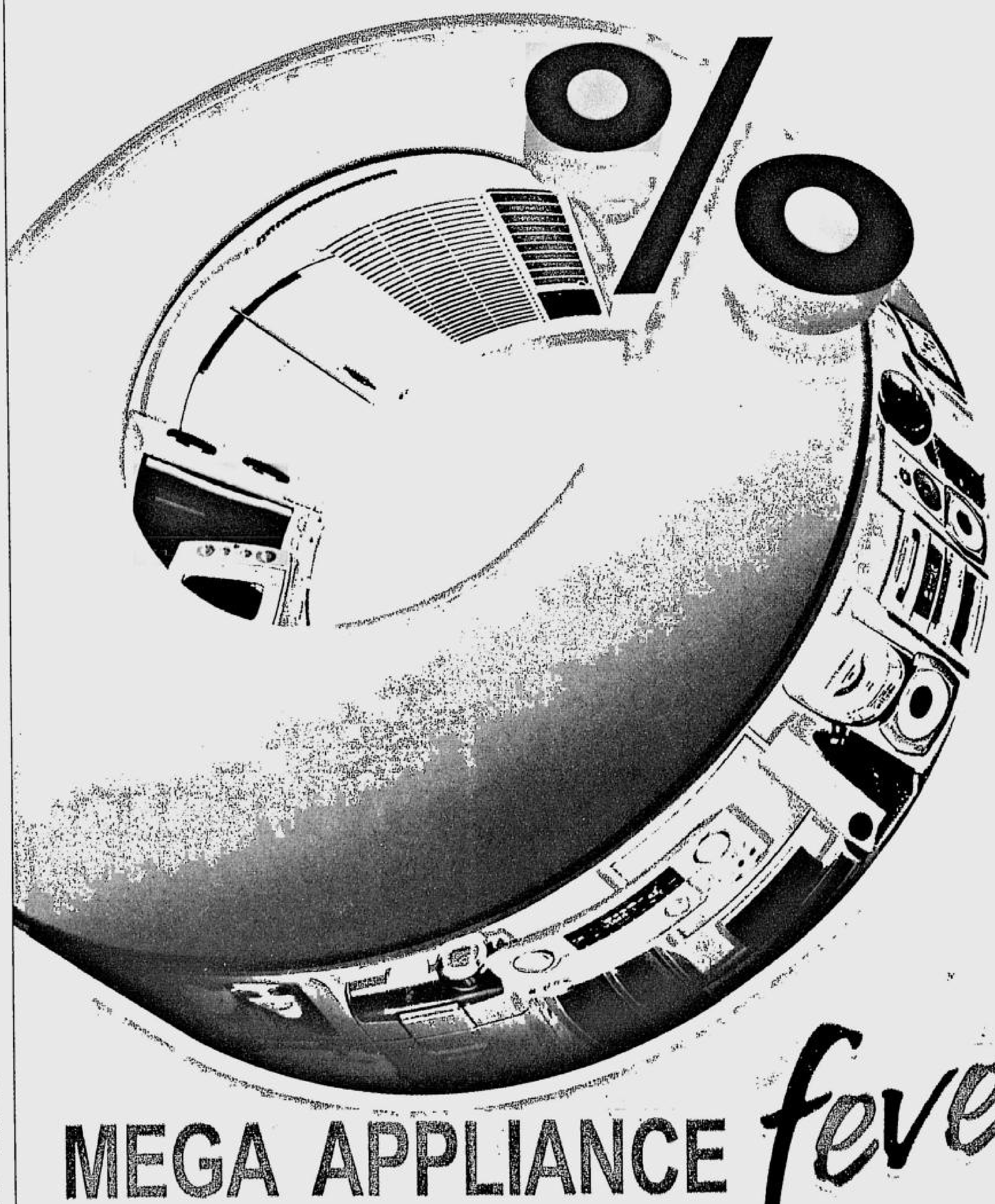

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

India PM clobbered in polls, resigns

NEW DELHI—Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee resigned on Thursday after a shock election defeat that paved the way for Italian-born Sonia Gandhi's Congress party to take power in the world's largest democracy.

The result was a resounding rejection by the rural poor of Vajpayee's "India shining" campaign motto, although Gandhi's Congress was not expected to turn its back on a policy of gradually liberalizing Asia's third-largest economy.

"The Congress party will take the lead to ensure our country has a strong, stable and secular government at the earliest," Gandhi said in brief comments to reporters.

Ecstatic, if surprised, supporters beat drums and danced in the streets in New Delhi as the extent of the upset by Congress and the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty quickly became apparent within two hours of counting starting.

"I am in shock. This kind of a lead was never expected. This is all because of Rahul and Priyanka," said a jubilant Subhash Chand outside the Gandhi home, referring to Sonia's popular son and daughter who helped revitalize her campaign.

Sonia has revived India's oldest party after the death of her husband, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991. Both she and Rahul won seats in the new parliament.

The coalition led by Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost one-third of its MPs, including its foreign minister, punished by disaffected rural poor who feel excluded from India's economic boom.

Vajpayee will stay as caretaker until a new government forms.

"The people have given their verdict, I accept it," Vajpayee said in a nationally televised speech. "My party... may have lost, but India has won.

"I do, however, have the satisfaction that our country is now stronger and prosperous than when you placed the reins of office in our hand," he added, finishing "Jai Hind" (Hail India).

Gandhi was meeting Congress leaders to discuss forming a government, which party officials said could happen within days but which will also have to rely for support on leftist parties after their strong gains. She is tipped to be prime minister.

With counting almost over, Congress and its allies were likely to win 218 seats in the 545-seat parliament and the BJP-led coalition 186. Left parties which have promised to support Congress were ahead in 63 constituencies.

The BJP, which polls tipped for certain victory only a few weeks ago, was shocked.

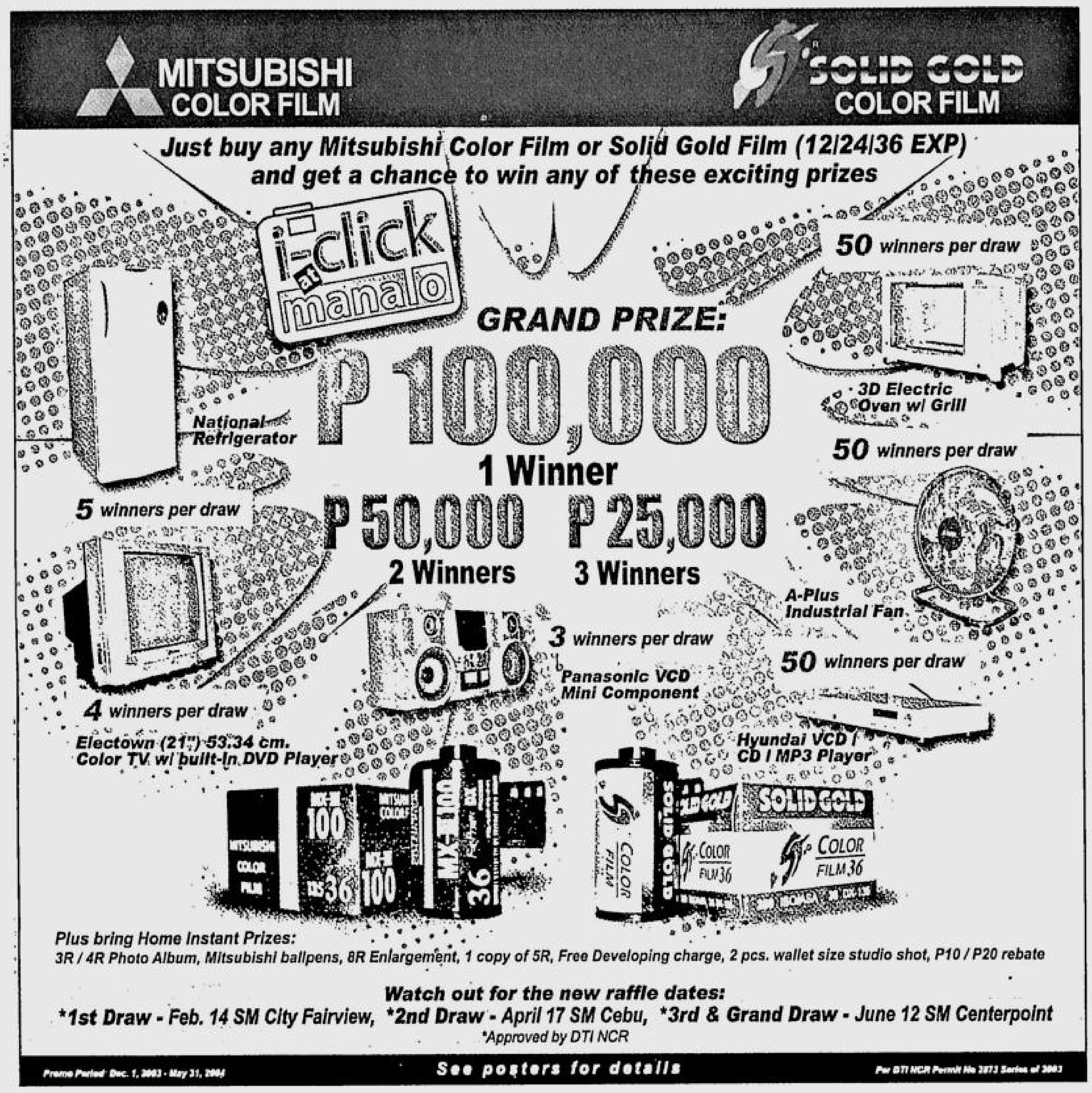
"I am half heart-broken and half-stunned," said senior party leader and key campaign strategist Pramod Mahajan.

Analysts say the new government is likely to continue the reforms crucial as India strives to become a global economic player, but they might have to be repackaged to ensure benefits reach the poor and are not restricted to the urban upper classes.

Under pressure from the communists—who oppose selling profitable state businesses and want more worker consultation on sales—this could mean slower privatizations.

Congress, which kicked off reforms and opened the economy to the world more than a decade ago, said it was committed to continuing the program, but with "a human face." *Reuters*

VAJPAYEE



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Beheaded man died for Bush, Rumsfeld 'sins,' father says

PHILADELPHIA—The father of Nick Berg, the American beheaded in Iraq, directly blamed US President George W. Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Thursday for his son's death.

"My son died for the sins of George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld. This administration did this," Berg said in an interview with radio station KYW-AM two days after a video showing the execution of his son was shown on an Islamist website.

In the interview from outside his home in West Chester, Pennsylvania, a seething Michael Berg also said his 26-year-old son, a civilian contractor, probably would have felt positive, even about his executioners, until the last minute.

"I am sure that he only saw the good in his captors until the last second of his life," Berg said. "They did not know what they were doing. They killed their best friend."

Asked to respond to Berg's comments about the president, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said, "The Berg family is going through a very difficult period and they remain in our thoughts and prayers."

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the presumptive Democratic nominee to challenge Bush in the November election, said he had spoken to Michael Berg to express sympathy. "I know as a father how I would feel if it were one of my daughters or stepsons. I think every American is pained by what is going on."

Asked if Bush had also called Nick Berg's family, McClellan said he had not but pointed to the president's public expressions of condolence to the family.

Michael Berg's criticism came amid finger-pointing between Berg's family, US military officials and Iraqi police over the young businessman's imprisonment before his execution.

Berg rejected US government claims that his son had never been held by American authorities in Iraq. The Iraqi police chief in the city of Mosul has also contradicted statements by the US-led coalition concerning the younger Berg's detention. *Reuters*

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Court overturns Roh impeachment

SEOUL—South Korea's Constitutional Court announced on Friday it was overturning parliament's unprecedented vote to impeach President Roh Moo-hyun, clearing the way for him to return to work after two months in political limbo.

The opposition-led parliament voted on March 12—barely a year into his single-term, five-year presidency—to impeach the former labor lawyer for breaking an election law, economic mismanagement and corruption among aides.

But the president of the court, Yun Young-chul, said in the televised reading of the judges' opinions that the counts of mismanagement and corruption were not grounds for impeachment.

The court said Roh had violated the election law but not intentionally—and that meant it was not grave enough to plunge the country into political chaos.

"The court is overturning the impeachment case," the crimson-robed Yun said at the end of the 25-minute session in the courtroom, which is paneled with wood and grey stone.

A majority of at least six of the nine independent judges was needed.

The ruling meant Roh was automatically reinstated after two months spent mostly in self-imposed isolation at the Blue House presidential compound amid a nascent economic recovery, a crisis over North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions and concerns about a decision to send troops to Iraq.

"With a majority of seats for the ruling party in the National Aassembly, I think President Roh can continue to pursue his economic and foreign policy in a more consistent manner," Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon told the Asia Society in Seoul.

Standard and Poor's ratings agency said the reinstatement of Roh was potentially positive for the sovereign rating of South Korea, the world's 12th largest economy.

Hundreds of riot police ringed the court, which is not far from the Blue House in central Seoul. Judges have been working on a ruling since hearings ended on April 30. *Reuters*

Corrupt use of World Bank funds may exceed $100B, US senator says

WASHINGTON—Corruption may have sapped as much as $100 billion from World Bank lending projects to help poor countries, a key US senator said Thursday.

Senate foreign relations committee chair Richard Lugar said that if the figure presented to his panel by one university professor were accurate, it would seriously undermine the organization's efforts to fight global poverty.

The World Bank hotly disputed the figure of $100 billion, adding that there was no basis for that estimate, but said the organization was working to stem corruption.

Lugar, who chaired a hearing on corruption involving multilateral lending agencies, cited an estimate by Jeffrey Winters of Northwestern University that the World Bank had participated "mostly passively in the corruption of roughly $100 billion of its loan funds intended for development."

Lugar said, "Other experts estimate that between five percent and 25 percent of the $525 billion that the World Bank has lent since 1946 has been misused. This is equivalent to between $26 billion and $130 billion."

The Republican lawmaker praised World Bank president James Wolfensohn for taking steps to root out corruption, but maintained that it remains a "serious problem."

"Corruption thwarts development efforts in many ways," Lugar said.

"Misuse of funds can inflate project costs, deny needed assistance to the poor, and cause projects to fail. Stolen money may prop up dictatorships and finance human rights abuses. Moreover, when developing countries lose development bank funds through corruption, the taxpayers in those poor countries are still obligated to repay the development banks. So, not only are the impoverished cheated out of development benefits, they are left to repay the resulting debts to the banks."

Bank officials meanwhile said the figure offered by Lugar and one witness were not accurate.

"We completely reject the figure offered by one of the panelists," said World Bank spokesperson Damian Milverton. "It has no basis in fact."

Milverton said the Bank had no estimate of its own on funds lost to corruption, but said officials took this seriously and had barred 180 companies and individuals from doing business with the bank because of corruption or other wrongdoing.

"The developing countries also have to do more to confront this issue," Milverton said. "We are trying to help in some of the poorest countries in the world, and in these countries, weak governance is often one of the biggest problems. We are trying to help these governments."

The bank makes about $18 billion in loans annually and had $116 billion in loans outstanding as of last June 20, Milverton said.

The spokesperson noted that bank practices had changed considerably in the past decade, and that during the Cold War loans were sometimes made for political rather than development reasons.

Meanwhile, Jerome Levinson, a law professor at American University and member of a congressionally chartered study panel known as the Meltzer Commission, called corruption a "cancer" on the multilateral lenders like the World Bank.

"I think it is unreasonable to expect that the World Bank, and or the regional development bank, can by themselves ensure the integrity of the process," Levinson testified.

"The political and financial interests, and the stake of the government in the policy are too great. The process will be driven by domestic considerations and the domestic balance of power.

"What I think is reasonable, however, is to expect that where the corruption that has accompanied the process is as notorious as it was in Mexico, Argentina and Russia, the international financial community... not give its stamp of approval, as was done in all three cases, to such a flawed process by extravagant praise of the 'reforms.'" *AFP*

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GMA asks Cabinet to resign

From page A1

net members on their respective portfolios was co-terminus with Ms Macapagal's current term which expires on June 30.

Bunye said he expected all Cabinet officials and presidential appointees to hand in their courtesy resignations within the next few days.

Ms Macapagal had been made aware of the "general sentiment" to purge the Cabinet and the need to " make a fresh start" once she got a new term, according to her campaign spokesperson Michael Defensor.

Defensor, however, denied that a Cabinet revamp was part of the quid pro quo that Ms Macapagal struck with bloc-voting religious organizations, which proven invaluable in giving her the lead in the presidential race based on early returns.

How to create jobs

She called her first post-election Cabinet meeting yesterday to discuss how to start work on creating 1 million jobs over the next six years and other promises that she made to help the poor.

However, she did not actually attend the meeting. It was presided over by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"The President was trying to recover some paper work," said Bunye in explaining the President's absence.

A report this week by the Council on Foreign Relations, a US-based independent think tank, warned that modest economic gains over the past two years "could be imperiled if the Philippines does not complete the electoral process in an expeditious and credible manner."

People power

"Whatever the outcome of the polls, the winner will have little time to lose in addressing a number of short- and long-term problems in the Philippines. For the new President and the legislature, these six years will be decisive," it said.

Action film star Fernando Poe Jr. has said he believes he won Monday's election, and his party warned of another "people power" revolt if it decides he lost through fraud.

If Ms Macapagal beats Poe and three other candidates, she will have a public mandate to run the country for the first time.

She took over in January 2001 when President Joseph Estrada was forced to leave Malacañang by mass protests over his alleged corruption.

Since then, Ms Macapagal has weathered at least two coup attempts and met steady resistance to some of the reforms she says are needed to put one of the few economic laggards in Southeast Asia on the track to prosperity and peace.

Improving the plight of the poor tops the list. The bedrock of support for both Estrada and Poe had come from the slums, where the two film stars' portrayals of underdog heroes had made them icons. *With a report from AP*

KNP offers reward for proof of election fraud

From page A1

returns (ERs).

"We were able to collect only 50 percent of the ERs, and until now we are still collecting. Some were given only [on Thursday]," Magno said.

He said that in Davao City, KNP watchers were not even allowed inside polling precincts even if they showed their identification cards.

Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is a supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In Manila, KNP spokesperson Mike Romero said the coalition's lawyers were now gathering evidence, including affidavits from people complaining of or testifying to poll fraud.

Romero told reporters at the Mandarin Hotel that the KNP had so far compiled a number of complaints, 150 of which had been categorized as "urgent."

These included the disclosure by Claude Bautista, the winning KNP congressional candidate in Davao del Sur, that someone had approached him to "lower" Poe's "advantage" in the province "from 65 percent to 20 percent," Romero said.

"We are now getting their affidavits to file necessary charges in court as well as before the proper authorities," he said.

'Futile attempt'

Malacañang, however, said the opposition's allegations of fraud had no basis and were futile.

"The opposition is taking isolated cases and trying to put these together in a futile attempt to show a systematic pattern of cheating," said Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye.

"As far as we are concerned, the presidential race is not yet over, but the more the opposition raises the bogey of cheating, the more we are convinced that they are already conceding the fight," he said.

Gabriel Claudio, Ms Macapagal's legislative adviser, said in a phone interview that the opposition should put up or shut up.

"Our appeal to the opposition is if they have evidence of fraud, they should show it before making sweeping allegations. They are creating undue anxiety for the people," said Claudio, who is also campaign manager of Ms Macapagal and of the administration's K4 coalition.

He also said Ms Macapagal was leading even before the May 10 elections, and that she would not want to smear her victory with doubts about the credibility of the election results.

"We got into this election with a 7-percent lead in the surveys, and immediately after the election we were leading in all exit polls," he said.

He pointed out that the administration did not complain even when Poe was leading in the initial quick count of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections.

Claudio admitted there were some activities in the local level, but he carefully crafted his words: "There may be occurrences of maneuverings at the local level in pursuit of local interests, but these should not be mistaken (as an attempt) at deceit for national candidates."

He denied reports that he was in Mindanao supposedly buying certificates of canvass (COCs) to rig the results in favor of Ms Macapagal.

"I'm just here [at the K4 headquarters]," he said.

Garcillano

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who is seeking reelection under the KNP, said Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was seen in the company of Efraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., at the Diamond Hotel in Manila Thursday night.

"I suggest that it is not appropriate for Commissioner Garcillano to be seen with Mr. Genuino under the circumstances, when Pagcor stands accused of funding the President's election bid," Pimentel said in a statement he had prepared for yesterday's KNP news conference with foreign correspondents at the Mandarin Hotel.

According to Pimentel, the two men talked at the hotel's Sakura function room, and at 9:15 pm, Garcillano left the room with two security men bearing "what looked like Comelec IDs."

He said one of the security men carried a paper bag measuring 18"x12" that "looked full" and was "stapled at the opening."

Asked if he was implying that money changed hands at the meeting, Pimentel curtly said: "You draw your own conclusions from my statement."

"More questionable," Pimentel also said, was the report he got that Garcillano was booked in room No. 1269 of the hotel, and that this was arranged by businessman Willy King.

Also at the hotel that night was Immigration Commissioner Al Fernandez.

'You can't hide'

Pimentel accused Garcillano of involvement in *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) in Mindanao in the 1995 elections.

"We are watching his every move," Pimentel said. "I warn all those who manipulate the election returns: You can run but you can't hide. We will not allow you to do so."

Pimentel also said he was compiling his own evidence of poll fraud.

He said the evidence he would present included an ER from his home province of Misamis Oriental showing that "the election process there has been mismanaged."

He said he got hold of a copy of the ER from Precinct No. 84-B in Barangay San Francisco de Asis in El Salvador, which showed the number of actual voters did not correspond with the number of ballots in the ballot box.

Of the 147 registered voters in that precinct, he said, there were only 79 who actually cast their votes. But the ballots in the box numbered 156.

'K4 Quick Count'

The KNP also accused Malacañang of setting into motion "another cheating tally machine" through the AMA Computer University's "K4 Quick Count."

It circulated copies of a memorandum supposedly sent by AMA chair Amable Aguiluz V to Ms Macapagal informing her of the three-day quick count.

The KNP claimed that it had obtained a copy of the memorandum from "Palace insiders."

"I have already provided full financial support and the necessary infrastructure, equipment, logistics for the K4 Quick Count operation," the memorandum had Aguiluz telling Ms Macapagal.

The memorandum dated May 13 indicated that the AMA was fielding 50 computer consultants and technicians, 156 representatives or two each for the 78 provincial canvassing boards, 40 workstations and 5 servers connected to a DS3,46 megabytes terminal, and 30 phone lines and fax machines.

Copies of the memorandum were supposedly furnished Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and former presidential chief legal counsel Avelino Cruz Jr., a member of Ms Macapagal's campaign team.

In a statement, the KNP said the administration had "set up this new quick count scheme to boost its 'dagdag-bawas' cheating operations in a desperate bid to reverse genuine tallies of votes that show big margins" for Poe.

But in a statement, AMA chief legal counsel and spokesperson Basilio Almazan said: "We strongly and categorically deny and disown these highly malicious imputations on us. We have established our track record in quick count operations in the past five elections, and we are doing our best to keep our integrity and credibility intact and unsullied."

He added: "The KNP claim that there was a memo from [Aguiluz] to [Ms Macapagal] regarding the alleged K4 quick-count operation is pure hogwash. It is a spurious document, and even [Aguiluz's] signature was forged to enable KNP and Fernando Poe Jr. to arouse whatever little sympathy is left for him among the Filipino people."

Almazan said AMA was "prepared to file all criminal and civil cases against all those responsible for these highly malicious, libelous and unfounded imputations."

'Also guilty'

Lakas-CMD executive director Jose Ma. Rufino lashed back at the opposition, saying it had no right to act like a hapless victim of electoral fraud because it was guilty of fraud in certain areas nationwide.

Representing the ruling party at a press briefing hosted by the Coalition for Honest and Peaceful Elections (HOPE), Rufino cited reports that opposition bailiwicks in Metro Manila and nearby provinces had been host to "massive vote-buying" and proliferation of fake election forms.

He said Lakas had also received information that two retired generals, Joselin Nazareno and Jaime Echevarria, were going around the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao "with boxes of money."

"I do not know what they are doing there. They are with KNP.. I mean, let's call a spade a spade. *Huwag na magmalinis kung hindi rin malinis* (Don't pretend to be clean when you're not clean)," Rufino said in an interview after the press conference.

He said the other presidential candidates should instead emulate Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who had agreed to a "genuine reconciliation" with the government after the elections.

Rufino heaped praise on Lacson, a staunch critic of Ms Macapagal before and throughout the campaign period, saying the senator was right in saying that those who could not guard their votes had no business running for any post.

HOPE's course of action

How Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla assess the conduct of the May 10 elections would determine the course of action that the HOPE coalition would take in the coming days, according to Antonio de los Reyes, director of the multisectoral group.

But the three archbishops, the moving forces of HOPE, were absent from the press conference called by the coalition yesterday in Intramuros, Manila.

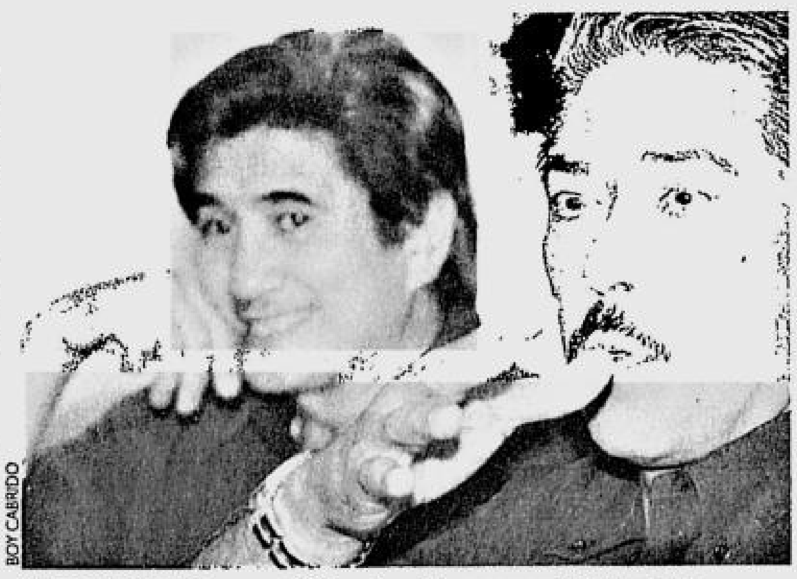
De los Reyes said Rosales was in Mindanao, Capalla in the Vatican and Vidal in Cebu. *Reports from Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Juliet Labog-Javellana, Carlito Pablo, Christine O. Avendano and Blanche S. Rivera in Manila*

Joe Concepcion fumes as Namfrel is accused of cheating

From page A1

The flyer accused Concepcion of being involved in "*dagdag-bawas*" (vote-padding and-shaving) to allegedly favor President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Opposition Senators Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan came to the offices of the INQUIRER on Thursday night and voiced concern over the slow vote count.



BOY CABRIDO

"NO SMOKING gun yet." Senators Honasan and Sotto at the INQUIRER office Thursday night. "But the fingerprints are there."

'Grand design'

"We think that there is a grand design to elect GMA illegally and the design is to make sure that media fall into the trap," Sotto told the INQUIRER editors.

Citing the Namfrel tally, Sotto claimed that during an eight-hour period, from 9 a.m to 5 p.m. Thursday, Namfrel was updating tallies from all regions, except Regions 3 and 4.

The vote counts for the two regions, both supposed bailiwicks of Koalisyong ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., remained frozen, he alleged.

Suddenly, Sotto claimed, a deluge of more than 184,000 votes from Region 7 showed up in the Namfrel tally in favor of Ms Macapagal.

Asked if they brought hard evidence to support their allegations of vote rigging and trending, the two senators said they would present this in due time.

"We have the fingerprints, the DNA, we don't have the smoking gun yet," Honasan said.

Founded in the 1950s to act as a poll watchdog, Namfrel—led by prominent businessmen and civic leaders—is no stranger to controversy.

In the 1986 "snap" elections, then President Ferdinand Marcos accused the group of supporting his rival, Corazon Aquino. Marcos was overthrown in a popular revolt triggered by accusations of vote-rigging.

'Shameful politics'

Concepcion said the flyer could have been the handiwork of those who felt they were losing in the Namfrel tally and were brought to the quick count center by men posing as observers.

Concepcion was particularly hurt by allegations in the flyer that he was a "*tuta*" (stooge) of Ms Macapagal, who was his undersecretary when he was trade secretary."

"Our politics is really shameful. *Nakakahiya*," Concepcion said.

Men and groups of integrity were behind the quick count and volunteers were rendering their services for free, he said.

Concepcion dismissed suggestions that KNP chair Sen. Edgardo Angara knew about the flyer, calling the opposition leader "a man of integrity."

"But he is the chief of the KNP so I hope he will do something about this unfair accusation," Concepcion said.

He added: "I challenge major political parties to do their job ... They should do their own tabulations so that they can immediately find out if there are discrepancies in the count."

Comelec blamed

Concepcion admitted the Namfrel quick count slowed down yesterday but blamed this on the alleged mess created by the Commission on Elections.

He said Namfrel computers rejected tallies from returns whose precinct numbers did not match those encoded in the computers.

This could have been the result of the Comelec's decision to update its list of registered voters several times before Monday's voting without informing Namfrel of the changes, he said.

To address this problem, Concepcion said, Namfrel has decided to allow computers to accept tallies with different precinct numbers and with no numbers of registered voters.

For tabulation purposes, these will be temporarily set aside until they had been analyzed by experts and verified with the Comelec's copy.

On the problem of Namfrel not getting its sixth copy, KNP vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda and former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou questioned Namfrel's alleged withholding from its quick count of votes from Central and Southern Luzon, supposed opposition bailiwicks.

They said that this could lead to suspicions that Namfrel was guilty of "trending" to favor the President. Namfrel flatly denied the charge.

Legarda and Demetriou, KNP counsel for Poe, separately went to the Namfrel quick count center.

Treat regions equally

Legarda said she wanted to make sure that Namfrel was not prioritizing votes from certain areas of the country to the detriment of those from other regions.

"That's what I'm asking—if the regions are being treated equally. The results from the regions should be released at the same time so that the contest is equal," she said.

Demetriou said the KNP had learned that Namfrel volunteers in the two Luzon regions already had the results as early as 9 a.m. Thursday but these results were allegedly not reflected in the tally.

"The delay creates a suspicion of trending in favor of Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, considering that these two regions are the bailiwicks of the opposition, more particularly of Fernando Poe Jr.," Demetriou said.

Namfrel strongly denied it was withholding results from the two regions to favor the President.

"Our policy here is 'first in, first out,'" said Concepcion.

He said some results were not immediately reflected in Namfrel's tally because they still had to be verified due to incomplete information, like the number of registered voters. He said Namfrel would not sacrifice accuracy for speed.

"We are more stringent than any other count and (the Namfrel tally involves) 1.7 million sheets of paper with hundreds of names on them," said Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz.

Vote-rich regions

Luz said results from regions with many vote-rich provinces—like Southern Tagalog, which includes Cavite, Batangas and Laguna—would naturally take longer to process.

FPJ cuts by half . . .

From page A1

he expected them to increase by midnight.

He denied the opposition's charge that Namfrel was "trending" in favor of Ms Macapagal by giving priority to election returns from her bailiwicks. ***(See related story on Page A1)***

De Castro's votes came mostly from the President's bailiwicks, namely, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Southern Mindanao, and Caraga.

On the other hand, Legarda was pulling away in Ilocos, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, Central Mindanao, ARMM and Metro Manila. She was also fast catching up with De Castro in the votes overseas.

In the senatorial race, Mar Roxas reached the 2-million mark, increasing his lead over second-placer Ramon "Bong" Revilla by half a million votes.

Roxas moved from the 13th to the 10th spot in the OV, which was dominated by Revilla who received 57,097 votes; Orlando Mercado, 52,129, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 52,055 votes.

Candidates from the administration coalition K-4 had seven of the 12 senatorial seats.

There was no change in the ranking from the 3rd up to the 10th spots.

Aquilino Pimentel was still third, followed by Jamby Madrigal, Richard Gordon, Pia Juliana Cayetano, Alfredo Lim, Santiago and Jinggoy Estrada.

Changing places were Juan Ponce Enrile, who was in 11th place, and Robert Barbers, who was back in 12th place.

Concepcion admitted that Namfrel's quick count slowed down yesterday.

He said Namfrel computers earlier rejected tallies of returns whose precinct numbers did not match those encoded in the computers and entries whose spaces provided for the number of registered voters were blank. The cross-checking by computers was necessary, he said, to make sure that these were not entries from ghost precincts.

To address this problem, Concepcion said, computers were reprogrammed to just accept tallies with this problem and temporarily set these aside for tabulation until these shall have been analyzed by experts and verified with the Comelec's copies.

On the problem of Namfrel not getting its 6th copy in other areas, Concepcion said this had been addressed.

In Ilocos Norte, for example, the election provincial director ordered the board of canvassers to give the copy to Namfrel and not to Rep. Imee Marcos, who earlier received the Namfrel copy.

2 pro-Ping PNP colonels sacked on election day

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO police colonels were sacked on election day for allegedly working on the presidential campaign of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a Philippine National Police official said yesterday.

The official said the superintendents—who were being monitored—had been working silently to help Lacson get support in their respective areas of jurisdiction in Luzon.

The source, a police general, refused to identify the two in deference to PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.'s decision to reveal their names only after the investigation.

One of the colonels had been given a huge amount of money, apparently to be distributed to prospective Lacson supporters in his area.

"We're not sure what the money was intended for," the source told the INQUIRER yesterday. "But we know he's involved in what we call a 'special operation' for Lacson."

At least 10 other police officers had been summoned to the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame because of reports that they were involved in partisan political activities, according to the source.

Upon learning that their activities were being monitored, most of the officers immediately went to Camp Crame to deny reports.

"The two superintendents knew they were in the list but they never showed up," the official said. "The leadership had no choice but to fire them to keep from continuing their illegal activities."

Ebdane had announced that more policemen would be sacked for violating the PNP policy against officers getting involved in partisan political activities.

But his spokesperson, Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, admitted that the violation was vague. There was really no way of telling if a policeman was partisan unless he was caught in the act of distributing campaign materials for a candidate or he endorsed a candidate during a campaign sortie.

Erap general's visit to South irks Palace

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa

MALACAÑANG is getting exasperated over persistent reports that former military officers, led by retired Gen. Joselin Nazareno, are sowing political intrigue among military personnel in Mindanao about the alleged effort by the government to rig the outcome of the elections.

The Armed Forces bared Wednesday that a group of retired military generals had been scouring Mindanao allegedly to talk to field commanders and recruit them for a plot to overthrow the government. While it did not identify the retired officers, the military noted that Nazareno, the first Armed Forces chief of staff of deposed President Estrada, was in Mindanao during the elections.

Presidential campaign spokesperson Michael Defensor said the government had been alerted by intelligence officers of Nazareno's activities, as he warned that the administration would take action against him should he continue with his campaign.

Malacañang said it had given fair warning to retired police and military generals not to wade into "partisan politics" and "partisan designs" a few days before the May 10 polls.

Nazareno held a press conference earlier where he bared an alleged plan by the administration to bribe officials of the Commission on Elections, teachers, treasurers and prosecutors to rig the canvassing of votes from the precinct up to the provincial levels.

Observe proper decorum

In Camp Aguinaldo, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita advised retired generals to maintain "proper decorum" when they meet soldiers and field commanders in their sorties around the country.

"Well there is nothing wrong about people, especially retired, to get involved in politics," Ermita told a press conference. "However, we just wish that if ever they are working with any political group, they will just maintain their usual decorum."

Ermita admitted though that it was not clear to them what prompted the generals to conduct these trips to the provinces. "We have no idea about the motives of the generals but I suppose, as we read in the papers, they said they would help ensure that there would be no fraud and cheating. Maybe that is how they think they can influence a peaceful and orderly elections."

"What's important is that they (retired generals) know what is wrong and what is right. So we just hope that it will not contribute to any destabilization," Ermita said.

Palace chides Erap over protest threats

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

ENOUGH already.

This was Malacañang's message to deposed President Estrada following reports he had urged his loyal supporters to join protest actions of the opposition against allegations of massive cheating in the elections by the administration.

Although Presidential campaign spokesperson Michael Defensor said Estrada, through his adviser, former Caloocan City Mayor Macario Asistio had denied the report, he said the government was treating it as a serious matter since the former President still commanded the support of 30 percent of the public.

Estrada was reported to have echoed his bosom buddy, fellow actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s call for the masses to rally against what he insinuated as the administration's moves to manipulate the outcome of the elections in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Added Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye: "We call on former President Estrada and his allies to stop making irresponsible statements that can fuel more tensions."

Bunye, however, refused to comment on whether Malacañang believed Estrada could still bring together the same forces that stormed the Palace on Labor Day in 2001.

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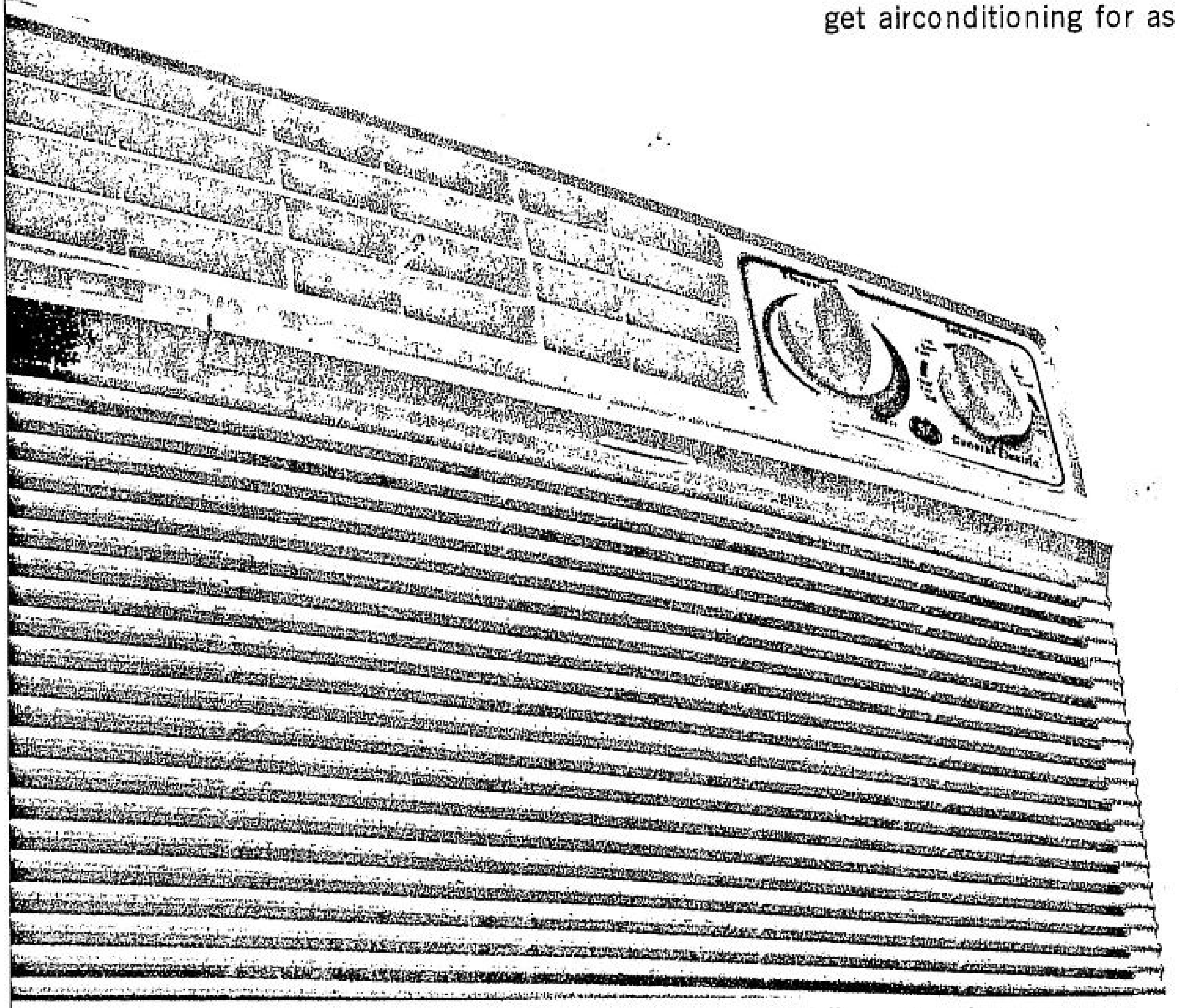

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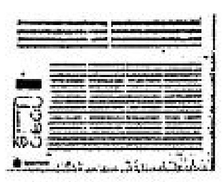

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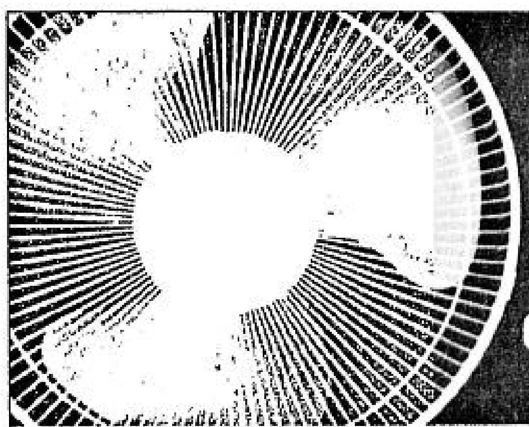

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Probing Proberz

EDITORIAL

IF Eddie Gil were to create a survey firm of his own, in order to cite polling numbers in his favor, the result would be very much like the mysterious Proberz research and consultancy group. The firm's equivalent of Gil's giveaway toupee would be the risible Z at the end of the company name. The equivalent of Gil's sweeping promises would be the laughable assumptions behind the firm's exit poll.

For reasons we shall show, the methodology the company used for its exit poll was seriously flawed. This means that its exit poll cannot be taken seriously; by implication, neither can its first survey, which like a piece of meat was thrown on to the track just as the race entered the home stretch.

If Proberz is the best that opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. can rely on, in his campaign's obvious attempt to counter the surveys of Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations with some numbers of its own, then he and his merry men need to spend more time looking for evidence of election fraud, or manufacturing it.

What was wrong with the Proberz exit poll? Plenty, if one were to go by the press briefing Proberz executive director Alfredo Sureta and two senior researchers conducted the other day.

First, the field numbers don't look right. Sureta said that on the day of the election, a group of 110 Proberz field researchers interviewed 4,010 respondents. The interviews took place between 8 a.m. and 12 noon (because, Sureta said, three-fourths of all voters traditionally vote at this time). Assuming that the work was divided evenly, Proberz's deployment of resources means that each researcher interviewed some 36 respondents, at an eyebrow-raising average of nine per hour. (Field researchers don't only ask the questions; they also qualify the respondents, a time-consuming task.)

But unaccountably, given the nature of the job, the researchers were not told to start as early as they could. As a result, Sureta admitted, most of the interviewers started their research at 11 a.m. This means that most of them interviewed as many as 36 respondents in one hour. Considering that the Proberz exit poll was conducted not only outside polling places but also in the respondents' homes, Proberz's field research objectives seem all but physically impossible to meet.

Contrast this with the SWS exit poll, also conducted on election day. At least 7,300 interviews were conducted, but by 1,200 staff members, and in nine hours (from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Second, Proberz's main assumption is unrealistic. The firm limited its field research mostly to urban areas, the cities and provincial capitals. Its reason: the voting population in the urban areas of a given province is greater than that in the rest of the province.

This is an astonishing assumption. While it may be true of certain provinces, it cannot be true for all. Just to cite one example, Tacloban City has only 90,000 voters, while the entire province of Leyte has 908,000 voters.

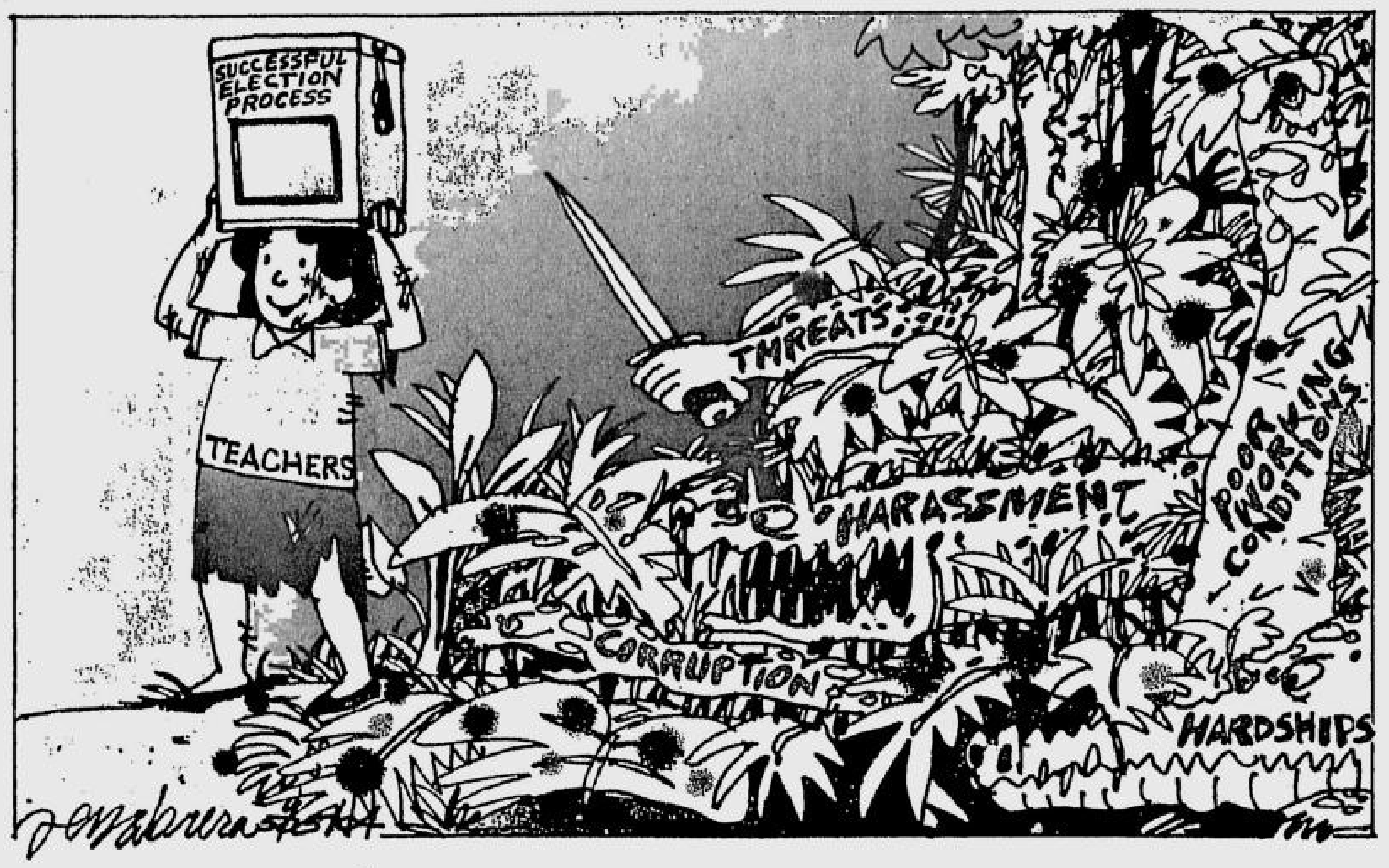
Sureta also admitted that, because of deadline pressure, "smaller provinces" were excluded. While all regions were sampled, the most Proberz could say was that most of the big provinces in each region were included in the poll.

Granting that Proberz did actually conduct a nationwide exit poll, its methodology leads to only one conclusion: it represents only half a nation.

Third, Proberz practiced its notion of random sampling rather selectively. Sureta admitted that those prospective respondents who said they did not vote for any presidential candidate were not included in the survey. But unaccountably, some of those who did not cast a vote for vice president were.

Aside from these erroneous assumptions, the Proberz exit poll is also certainly mistaken about one result: its roster of winning senatorial candidates. The list for the first 16 slots conspicuously lacks one name that has consistently appeared in the top 6 of all the surveys: Aquilino Pimentel. It also consigns two consistent survey performers to outside the circle of the Magic 12: Richard Gordon and Miriam Defensor-Santiago. In their stead is Ernesto Maceda, a consistent borderline candidate in the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys.

Like Gil, a caricature of a presidential candidate, the Proberz election-day survey is a cartoonish exit poll. It's good for a laugh, but not much more.



Shallow elections

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE ELECTIONS just concluded were, in my opinion, the worst ever since we became a republic. They were blemished by the usual vices of elections in this country, like vote-buying, flying voters, terrorism and *dagdag-bawas*, but I am not talking of these customary flaws. I am referring to certain unique features of the 2004 elections that made them *sui generis*, in a shameful class by themselves.

Elections before involved one-on-one confrontations between the nominees of only two major contending parties, the Nacionalistas and the Liberals. The conflict in those years pitted established political leaders against each other, like Osmeña v. Roxas in 1946, Quirino v. Laurel in 1949, Garcia v. Yulo in 1957, Macapagal v. Garcia in 1962, and Marcos v. Macapagal in 1965. There were exceptions, as when Jose Avelino joined the fight in 1949 and Manuel Manahan and Claro M. Recto also ran in 1957. But they were only minor distractions in the contest between the heavyweights of the two dominant parties. Recto later wryly said, "I knew I was going to lose, but I did not know it was going to be a disaster."

By contrast, the presidential elections this year involved five parties, or groups of parties, with no historical antecedents or even a definite identity. Many voters could not even name the parties they were supporting, let alone their political platforms, if any. They were for this or that candidate, never mind his or her party, who became its standard-bearer not by choice of the delegates at the usual convention but by self-proclamation.

The presidential candidates this year were inferior in stature compared to their more prestigious predecessors. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was only an accidental President who debased her high office with cheap political stunts on top of charges that she was using government resources to advance her campaign. Fernando Poe Jr., who had no political experience and was a high-school dropout, was mocked for his cowardice in not meeting GMA's challenge to a debate, which he evasively called "divisive."

Raul Roco had impressive credentials but lost much support because of his poor health and the lack of a sizable party and a running mate with national prominence like Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda. Panfilo Lacson, also a political novice, was facing criminal charges of murder and other offenses and had no running mate and only one senatorial candidate. The last "also-ran" was Eddie Villanueva, who believed his 2 million evangelical flock would support him although he had no vice-presidential or even a single senatorial candidate.

The list of senatorial aspirants was also far from, at least, respectable. How could conscientious citizens support such presumptuous actors like Bong Revilla, Lito Lapid and Jinggoy Estrada as members of a Senate where once sat illustrious leaders like Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Juan Sumulong, Lorenzo Tañada and Jovito R. Salonga?

Notably, both the senatorial slates of GMA and FPJ were tainted by not only show-biz favorites of the *bakya* crowd but also candidates identified with the deposed Joseph Estrada. Among them were Francisco Tatad, Juan Ponce Enrile, Alfredo Lim, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Orly Mercado, all of them discards from the 2001 elections, plus John Osmeña, Robert Jaworski and Didagen Dilangalen. A forgetful electorate made some of them win.

In the past, when the Nacionalista and Liberal Parties presented their senatorial tickets to the electorate, many voters often found it difficult to accommodate all their choices in the only 12 spaces in the ballot because most of the candidates were qualified and deserving. There was not a single actor in what the parties called their "powerhouse" slates, which included leaders in business, education, labor, women's groups, the armed forces, and other sectors.

The last elections saw no serious discussion of issues like, for example, when the Liberal Party proposed Parity in 1947 and the Nacionalista Party vigorously opposed it. The mood of the 2004 campaign was entertainment.

Artistas earned extravagant fees for amusing the crowd with their performances while the candidates simply displayed themselves as if they had nothing worthwhile to say. Some of them actually joined the entertainers, like President Macapagal herself who donned ethnic attire and swayed to tribal gongs to woo the indigenous people. Actor Poe did not have to croon to the voters but played the role of the competent candidate by mumbling his remarks like a knowledgeable thinker.

I earnestly pray that future elections in this country will not be as shallow as the elections held last May. The people deserved better than the expensive carnival of frivolity that besieged them for lack of the serious ideas the candidates should have offered to solve the problems of the country. That alternative could also have proved their competence to serve the nation as its chosen representatives and avoided the selection of obvious misfits in the solemn councils of the government.

Signs of unholy designs

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

BUT wasn't it obvious that there was going to be confusion during election day? Wasn't it obvious that the stage was being set for cheating, either deliberately or unwittingly? You would have to be deaf, dumb and blind not to see it.

First, there was the attempt to use automated counting machines that were vulnerable to intervention (they had communication ports, supposedly for the electronic data transmission phase, but which also meant that if the machines could communicate outward, it could also receive instructions). The Supreme Court put "paid" to that, thanks to the dogged persistence of Gus Lagman and his computer colleagues, all of whom must be considered among the heroes of these elections. At least, the potential for influencing the results of the elections from that quarter was eliminated.

Unfortunately, there were other possible ways to do that.

There was the suspension of the continuing voter registration system for six months, and its premature termination. The suspension was supposedly to implement the so-called Voter Validation System, where registered voters were being asked to register again so that they could get their hi-tech, very expensive IDs which had no legal basis in the first place. That the VVS failed (only 20 percent of registered voters were validated, per Comelec estimates, in spite of initial threats by Chair Benjamin Abalos that voters who did not validate may not be able to vote), even as its implementation made it more difficult for new voters to register, underscores the cock-eyed priorities of the Comelec leadership.

Then there was Abalos' insistence on doing his own quick count (at a cost of P400 million), even as the Comelec had already accredited Namfrel, with the greatest reluctance, and only after public pressure for it to do so (at no cost to the government). In fairness to the rest of the commission, I understand that four of the seven members either objected or had reservations about that Comelec quick count, but it went through anyway, until the Supreme Court struck it down. But the preparations for this project, to which Comelec field officers objected strenuously, diverted the Comelec's time and attention from its more basic role of training, education, information and logistical preparations.

At the same time that some voters were being disenfranchised even before the elections, there are also indications that there was a padding of the voters' lists. Historically, the proportion of the voting population (18 years old and above) who actually register runs between 80 and 83 percent. Thus, if the voting population, per census estimates, for the 2004 elections is 49 million, one would expect from past experience that the number of registered voters would be anywhere from 39.2 to 40.7 million voters. Yet Comelec figures show 43.5 million. An increase in civic spirit? Or padded lists?

But even if the lists were padded, it would not necessarily result in fraud. As Lagman has said, the overriding principle is not one voter, one registration, but **one voter, one vote**. Potential "flying voters" would be unable to vote more than once, as long as indelible ink was applied to their finger, and as long as the indelible ink was really indelible. But there's the rub, as Conrad de Quiros would say. The Comelec leadership seems to have a penchant for awarding contracts to questionable contractors who don't deliver what is required.

Then, there were the voters' lists themselves. By law, these should have been posted in every municipality or city by early February, to allow 90 days for inclusion and exclusion proceedings: for voters who couldn't find their names, or watchful organizations to remove fictitious names, double registration, etc. But, you guessed it, those voters' lists, which for some complicated reason, the Comelec leadership decided should be generated from the main office, did not get generated on time. So the job was given back to the Comelec field officers in late January. Result? Delays, confusion, no time for inclusion and exclusion proceedings.

The kicker, of course, was the appointment to the Comelec of two commissioners whose credentials for independence or integrity were questionable, to say the least. Their first official act was to petition the Supreme Court to disqualify Fernando Poe Jr. The brazenness of that move was matched only by the paucity of valid legal arguments, to which the Supreme Court gave extremely short shrift. The point is that if they could act with such effrontery, and lack of legal basis, on the issue of Poe's citizenship, what other misdeeds could they be capable of?

Which is why, if Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is deluged with complaints about the Comelec leadership and suspicions of their incompetence or their partisanship, she only has herself to blame. She appointed them in the first place.

All the signs were there. Yet none of the parties that are now complaining mightily seems to have done anything about it, the way Lagman did. And now, instead of guarding the canvassing (where "*dagdag-bawas*" takes place) with their lives, they insist on blaming the exit polls (the irony of it all is that SWS' Mahar Mangahas is Poe's first cousin), and for Namfrel (e.g., Kit Tatad, in a reprise of what he did in 1987), wanting to kill the messengers for delivering bad news. Which shows the quality of their thinking. And probably why they lost.

We get the government we deserve.

KNP's game plan

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

RICARDO Cardinal Vidal, archbishop of Cebu, was forced to clear up a misleading news item yesterday which claimed that he had signed an agreement with the opposition to protest alleged poll cheating by the administration. As K-4 media bureau chief Cerge Remonde explained to the media, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, FPJ's campaign manager, and Luis Sison, spokesperson for Eddie Villanueva, flew to Cebu last Wednesday in an effort to enlist the cardinal in the opposition's campaign to whip up public outrage over its allegations of massive cheating. But the white-haired prelate wisely refused to sign the agreement. Instead he admonished Binay and Sison to document the charges so these could be properly acted upon.

* * *

As all voters know, cheating has been done in every election by various political groups. Now KNP is accusing K-4 of cheating. But in Pasay City last Wednesday night, people identified with a councilor, who is himself affiliated with the group of Mayor Peewee Trinidad, a big FPJ supporter, were caught by voters with several ballot boxes hidden in their vehicles. Surely, they weren't cheating for K-4.

* * *

Admittedly cheating is more rampant on the local level where the margin of victory could be as little as 30 votes. But whether cheating is a national administration policy can be vigorously disputed. Moreover, as one observer has noted, some of the self-admitted or reputed cheating experts are in the opposition senatorial slate and are reported to be operating in Mindanao.

One person who is most worried about cheating is doubtless former President Joseph Estrada, since his son Jinggoy hovers at the tail end of the Magic 12. Could this be why he's sounding the call to bring down the administration? But as some pundits have pointed out, the threat against Jinggoy could come from Erap's allies themselves.

* * *

What seems obvious is that KNP is following a script whereby it would charge cheating at every turn, perhaps because it cannot accept the reality that the popular FPJ could lose the elections. In this script, some retired generals, mostly identified with the late dictator, have a role in destabilization attempts. Note that KNP was charging "trending" the day after the elections, at a time when FPJ was leading in various tabulations! When GMA overtook FPJ, KNP changed its tune and began charging cheating and failure of elections, and accusing the Comelec, Namfrel, the tri-media and SWS about being engaged in a "conspiracy." The fact is that the SWS/ABS-CBN exit poll, the dzRH exit poll, the GMA-Network/AMA poll and the Iglesia ni Cristo's Net 25 poll all said the same thing: *panalo si* GMA.

* * *

What KNP doesn't say is that FPJ took an early lead in the tabulation because of the votes from Luzon where he won in many places. But now that the Visayas and Mindanao votes for GMA have come in, they will bury FPJ, as SWS chief Mahar Mangahas predicted. It's interesting that in Luzon, FPJ's winning margins were not that wide, whereas in the Visayas, GMA is winning by a landslide in vote-rich Cebu and has big margins in Western Visayas. In Leyte, FPJ won on the Waray side, but GMA won on the Cebuano side by about 40,000 votes.

* * *

By now, KNP doubtless knows which side won where. But KNP is still in a denial mode, covering this up with allegations of rampant cheating. In the meantime, GMA has resumed the business of governing, holding her first post-election Cabinet meeting yesterday even as she's reportedly trying to reach out to her various opponents through third parties. The word from the grapevine is that she's also mulling a Cabinet revamp in the next few weeks.

* * *

There were many upsets in these elections. In Leyte, computer expert and professor Jericho Petilla, a political neophyte and the son of former Gov. Leopoldo Petilla and three-term Gov. and now congresswoman-elect Remedios Petilla, beat former Rep. Sergio Apostol for governor by 30,000 votes. My friend, three-term Rep. Gerry Espina, lost by only 40 votes in the race for mayor of Naval, Biliran's capital, even as two children of his won the governorship and his old House seat. Another friend, Rep. Willy Villarama, lost his congressional seat in Bulacan to former Rep. Pedro Pancho. In Quezon City, it was a triple whammy for the Mathays. The loss of former Mayor Mel Mathay to reelectionist Mayor Sonny Belmonte was predicted, but not the defeat of his son, Rep. Chuck Mathay (to top councilor Ana Susano) and another son Bu Mathay in the council race.

* * *

In Eastern Samar, I rejoice over the victory of our media colleague Ben Evardone as governor, even as I mourn the defeat of Samar Rep. Ed Nachura, a leading light of the Charter change movement in the House, by former Rep. Catalino Figueroa. The talk is that while Nachura was busy promoting Charter change in Manila, Figueroa, who lost to him on the issue of corruption in the 1998 elections, was busy working on the barangay captains. In Santiago, Isabela, few expected former Mayor Amy Navarro to defeat incumbent Mayor Pempe Miranda and fewer still expected journalist and polio victim Grace Padaca to defeat a member of the ruling dynasty, Faustino Dy Jr. in the gubernatorial race.

* * *

In yesterday's issue of Today, former Sen. Rene Saguisag said that a "rumored boy friend" of GMA, defeated gubernatorial candidate in Batangas Hernando Perez, maneuvered to get millions in bribe money from Mark Jimenez, which he said, was corroborated by another "rumored boy friend" of GMA, defeated Bulacan Representative Villarama. And in the same sentence Saguisag also parenthetically referred to GMA's boast that she has "plenty of sex," obviously referring to the two "rumored boy friends." That sex stuff is *pang*-tabloid *lang*, not a hallmark of a refined Harvard graduate.

A chance at salvation

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S the second part of the excerpts from the keynote speech of Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, delivered during the Microbicides 2004 Conference in London. It's entitled "Women and AIDS." Read on:

Everything proceeds at glacial speed for women, if it proceeds at all, in the face of this global health emergency.

And that's what I want to drive home. We deplore the patterns of sexual violence against women, violence which transmits the virus, but all you have to do is read the remarkable monographs by Human Rights Watch to know that for all the earnest blather, the same malevolent patterns continue. We lament the use of rape as an instrument of war, passing the virus, one hideous assault upon another, but in Eastern Congo and Western Sudan, possibly the worst episodes of sexual cruelty and mutilation are taking place on a daily basis as anywhere in the world, and the world is raising barely a finger. We have the women victims of Rwanda, now suffering full-blown AIDS, to show the ending of that story. We talk ad nauseam of amending property rights and introducing laws on inheritance rights, but I've yet to see marked progress. We speak of empowering women, and paying women for unacknowledged and uncompensated work, and ushering in a cornucopia of income generating activities… and in tiny pockets it's happening, especially where an indigenous local women's leadership is strong enough to take hold… but for the most part, in Churchill's phrase, it's all "Jaw, Jaw, Jaw."

* * *

FOR much of my adult life, I have felt that the struggle for gender equality is the toughest struggle of all, and never have I felt it more keenly than in the battle against HIV/AIDS. The women of Africa and beyond: they run the household, they grow the food, they assume virtually the entire burden of care, they look after the orphans, they do it all with an almost unimaginable stoicism, and as recompense for a life of almost supernatural hardship and devotion, they die agonizing deaths.

Undoubtedly—and I must acknowledge this—with the sudden growing awareness internationally of what the virus hath wrought, we will all make increasing efforts to rally to the side of women. It's entirely possible that we will make more progress over the next five years than we have made in the past 20. But I cannot emphasize strongly enough that the inertia and sexism which plague our response are incredibly, almost indelibly engrained, and in this desperate race against time we will continue to lose vast numbers of women.

That is not to suggest for a moment that we shouldn't make every conceivable effort to turn the tide; it is only to acknowledge the terrible reality of what we're up against.

People say to me: Stephen, what about the men? We have to work with the men. Of course we do. But please recognize that it's going to take generations to change predatory male sexual behavior, and the women of Africa don't have generations. They're dying today, now, day in and day out. Something dramatic has to happen which turns the talk of generations into mere moments in the passage of time.

* * *

AND that, ladies and gentlemen, is where all of you come in. I'm not pretending that microbicides are a magic bullet. Microbicides aren't a vaccine. Nor do I dispute the powerful point made by Geeta Rao Gupta at the opening of the conference, that we can neither forget nor diminish the structural cultural changes so urgently required. But when so many interventions have failed, when the landscape for women is so bleak, the prospect of a microbicide in five to ten years is positively intoxicating.

The idea that women will have a way of re-asserting control over their own sexuality, the idea that they will be able to defend their bodily health, the idea that women will have a course of prevention to follow which results in saving their lives, the idea that women may have a microbicide which prevents infection but allows for conception, the idea that women can use microbicides without bowing to male dictates—indeed the idea that men will not even know the microbicide is in use… these are ideas whose time has come.

* * *

FOR me, while microbicides are not a salvation, they come as close to salvation as anything else I've heard about. I pray that everyone at this conference understands that the women of Africa and many other parts of the world are counting on you. It is impossible to overstate how vital is the discovery of a microbicide. If we were making progress on several other fronts, microbicides would pale. But we're not making progress, or we are making progress in such painfully minute installments, that it feels as though we're moving from paralysis to immobility. The resources of the international community should flow, torrentially, into the hands of the scientists and researchers and advocates and activists assembled here who fight the good fight, because in those hands lies life.

I admit: I have a proclivity for hyperbole. It's a molecular disability, with one exception. This subject is the exception. I don't know how to convey to you what's happening out there. I move from country to country, from rural hinterland to rural hinterland, from project to project, and everywhere I go the lives of women are compromised. And it's not changing. How do you get governments and international financial institutions and bilateral development donors to understand? It's not changing. Three merciless years, and women face today exactly what they faced in yesteryear and yesteryear before that. (*Conclusion tomorrow*)

About Enrique

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE have been claims that Enrique de Malacca (as he is listed in the Seville archives and in the chronicles of that historic journey) was actually a native of Cebu. This conclusion may have come about because in Pigafetta's account (by the way, he was not Venetian but Vicentian, having been born in Vicenza, according to Vicente de Jesus' e-mail correction), we are told that after a week in Homonhon, Magellan with his three ships headed southwest, deeper into the archipelago. The following day they saw an island and as they approached, a small boat with warriors came by to greet them.

Enrique "addressed them in a Malay dialect, and to Magellan's astonishment, the men appeared to understand him and replied in the same tongue. No one, not even Magellan knew how Enrique managed to converse with the islanders…" Whether this was Cebuano or a language used by traders around Southeast Asia is something we will never know. What we have is conjecture. It is a matter of record that Magellan bought Enrique 10 years earlier in Malacca, where he was baptized, and he followed Magellan to Africa and to Europe. He could have come from the Philippine archipelago, having been captured as a child by Muslim raiders and sold in the slave mart. Whether he was originally from here or from another country, he may hold the distinction of being the first circumnavigator of the globe.

Magellan, on the other hand, was like one of those tragic heroes with a fatal flow in his character. It could have been his quest for glory, his reckless conduct (he unnecessarily risked lives in the crew's point of view), his foolhardiness, his belligerent attitude where he could have been diplomatic, his seeming conviction that he was omnipotent—all of these eventually led to his death. Bergreen believes that Magellan's "thirst for glory, under cover of religious zeal, led him fatally astray."

On the other hand, there is a suspicion that the strange behavior of the crew could be evidence of their final mutiny. When Magellan landed to confront the forces of Lapu-Lapu in Mactan, the gunners aboard the ships were supposed to cover them with fire. It is possible that the low tide prevented them from coming closer, but neither did they send reinforcements in their longboats when they saw their captain and the men in trouble. It was the Cebuanos who finally intervened, but either the crew members refused to come to Magellan's aid or the officers ordered them to stay put.

His death led to in-fighting among the officers as to who was to succeed him and although Duarte Barbosa, Magellan's brother-in-law, and Juan Serrano, a Spanish captain, were voted as captains, there were dissenters. One of them was Enrique who had been promised his liberty by Magellan. Claiming that he was now free, he refused to obey orders to leave the "Trinidad" and negotiate with the natives. The new leaders of the expedition though were in need of his linguistic and diplomatic skills.

According to Pigafetta's account, Barbosa told Enrique that he would not be set free and that when they returned, he would still be the slave of Beatriz, Magellan's wife. In Sebastian Elcano's account, it was Serrano and not Barbosa who abused him, declaring that he was still a slave even if his master had died and threatening to whip him if he didn't obey and go ashore. Enrique, highly incensed, stalked off.

Both Pigafetta and Elcano believed that Enrique sought out Humabon and schemed against the armada. He may have convinced the Cebuano ruler that the Spaniards were plotting against them and were "endlessly greedy."

Whatever Humabon's motives—whether he believed that Magellan was his protector and that now that the latter was dead Lapu-Lapu would come after him and there would be no one to defend him, or he thought that he could take over the ships and the merchandise—we will never know. What we do know is that on May 1, Humabon invited the officers to a banquet. Over 30 men accepted, a quarter of the entire crew, including Barbosa and Serrano. Luckily Pigafetta, wounded in the Battle of Mactan where he fought by Magellan's side, stayed behind nursing a swelling wound.

In Gines de Mafre's account, the men on board heard shouts and groans and saw armed men attacking the crew. Twenty-seven died, while the priest and Serrano were captured. A few were able to swim to the ship and they prepared to sail.

The Cebuanos brought Serrano to the shore and offered to exchange him for ransom. The ransom consisted of an iron gun, but as soon as this was given them, they asked for more and this continued until the men on board gave up despite Serrano's pleas. Serrano, stranded on the shore, confirmed that Barbosa and San Martin were dead. It is believed that soon after, he perished along with the rest.

Their last glimpse of the island was of the Cebuanos "tearing down the cross on the mountaintop and smashing it to bits." At this point, Enrique disappears from history as do Humabon and Lapu-Lapu.

Only 115 of the 260 who had sailed from Sanlucar de Barrameda remained. In the end only, 18 would make it back.

(*Data from Bergreen, Laurence, "Over the Edge of the World."*)

33 A.D.

YOUNG BLOOD

Prospero E. Pulma Jr.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

AFTER WATCHING the movie "The Passion of the Christ," I could not help but ask myself many questions. If I did not know Jesus Christ's real identity and had not heard of Him before, what would have I done if I lived in Jerusalem in 33 A.D.? Which side would I take if I were one of the very fortunate souls who saw Jesus in action?

If I were in Jerusalem in 33 A.D. and had witnessed Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into the city, I would wonder why the people were ecstatic over the arrival of a man on a donkey. I would have asked what He had done to deserve such a grand welcome.

Then I would have heard accounts of His extraordinary deeds. But overwhelmed with disbelief that such a plain-looking man could do the things attributed to Him, I would either walk away or be drawn to Him out of curiosity.

Days later, I would be shocked to learn that the same crowd who welcomed Jesus were now crying for His blood. Puzzled by the people's sudden change of behavior, I would go out and witness history unfold. I would watch Christ's trial on trumped-up charges, cringe at the sight of His body covered with wounds and be awed by His strength in carrying a heavy cross all the way to Calvary. I would wonder why He was using the powers he was rumored to possess. In the end, I would be convinced that nobody would endure such a horrible ordeal unless it was for a very noble cause.

Or, I could have been one of the people manipulated by the Pharisees into getting rid of Christ. Bribed with a few pieces of silver, misinformed or simply ignorant, I would join the mob in crying for His crucifixion.

Then realizing my mistake, I would have returned the money, lived in perpetual shame and cursed the high priests for misleading me. Or I would have done what Pilate did, which was to pretend that my hands were not stained with the blood of an innocent man.

Disbelief would be my initial reaction if I heard someone claim that He was the Son of God. Driven by curiosity, I would have tried to see for myself if indeed He was the Messiah or just another prophet. Any doubts that I had would vanish the moment I saw Him cure the sick, restore sight to the blind, multiply fish and bread, exorcise demons and raise a dead man from the grave.

But I would be confused when His solution in settling an old score contradicted what I had been taught. He preached about turning the other cheek, forgiving 70 times 7, and loving one's enemies instead of getting even the old-fashioned way: an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

The immense power He displayed in performing miracles and the wisdom He imparted through parables would not have been enough to convince me to join His followers. What would have made me believe in Him was the mercy He showed to His tormentors. Only someone with a pure heart, someone holy, could do such a thing because the hearts of men are, by nature, unclean.

Despite all this, I still cannot say whose face I would have worn during Jesus Christ's last hours. Would it be the self-righteous face of Caiaphas? Would it be that of a merciless Roman legionnaire? Or would it be that of Judas?

Prospero E. Pulma Jr., 25, is a medical intern.

Battle of fans

Mela Almonte

A LOT of people have been ragging on "American Idol" lately, saying it's all a joke because the "good ones" were at the bottom three during the Barry Manilow night. I've read one web columnist who said people are just mindlessly making endless calls and not even listening to their "idols."

Guess what? It's a popularity show. Online voting, remember? If they wanted a talent show, they would have left it to Randy, Paula and Simon to decide who wins. Simon did say something like, "This is what you get when you let America decide." And it's true.

It's the battle of the fans now. A lot of people think John Stevens deserved to get the boot instead of Jennifer, but his fan base wouldn't allow that. Why? He's the only guy, and the girls need someone to crush on. A lot of women actually think the Archie Andrews look is cute. The whole young, vulnerable crooner package is just adorable to teenage girls all over America and their mothers. Plus, he's the only white guy left. I'd like to give Americans some credit, but you can't just dismiss the idea that he gets at least 5 percent of his votes because of that fact alone. Those who cried "Racist!" (including Sir Elton John himself) have a valid point. But racism is only part of the story.

We saw the last of John when he got voted out in the latest episode. So what? Some people still seem to think they know who should become the American Idol.

If people think that having La Toya, Jennifer and Fantasia in the bottom three was an outrage, why don't we just end the show now and let Ryan Seacrest give the title to whoever he wants, because he apparently knows so much better than the voters? What's the point of continuing the show?

The format is ludicrous to begin with. Britney Spears is the biggest success in popdom right now, and I bet she cannot sing Motown, then Elton John, then Barry Manilow week after week. The American Idol has to be versatile, but I fail to see any reason why. Current pop stars will fall flat on their faces if you make them sing outside their genre. Why the high expectations from someone who had to audition to get a crack at stardom in the first place?

Is there something wrong with La Toya, Jennifer and Fantasia that they do not get the biggest number of votes? They sound great, but why don't people like them enough to vote for them? John Stevens, Jasmine Trias and Diana Degarmo aren't as good as the "divas," but how come people like them more?

No doubt talent is important, but that's not the end all and be all especially in a medium like television. Just look at Britney Spears.

There are a lot of talented people who never make it big, and there are a lot of not so talented people who do. This will not happen in an ideal world, but hey, ours isn't.

I want everyone to stop whining and Seacrest to stop lecturing so I can go on and enjoy my favorite show.

P.S. The next season of "American Idol" should be limited to radio, where everyone will just sing and not tell anything about themselves. No cutesy scenes with the family, no "I'm from sunny Boonville," no "I used to work at blahblahblah." Then no one will complain about talentless people winning. No one will be even tuning in, except maybe truckers.

Mela Almonte, 21, majored in Anglo-American Literature at the University of the Philippines and now works in the INQUIRER.

Lessons from Pacquiao fight

THE PACQUIAO-MARQUEZ title fight teaches some valuable lessons applicable to the just-concluded presidential election.

1. It's not how strong you start but how well you finish that spells the difference between a victory, a defeat or a draw. "People's champ" Manny Pacquiao came out like a raging bull, knocking down the titleholder, Juan Miguel Marquez, three times in the first round. But from the second round till the 12th, Marquez more than held his own with effective counters and solid punches to negate the challenger's power. Conversely, former Sen. Raul Roco came out on top of many surveys last year but is now competing for last position with Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

2. Too much advertising irritates but gives maximum recall. The boxing TV special was overloaded with commercials. While only a maximum of five minutes per gap is allowed by the Advertising Board, last Sunday's program had an average of 7.45 minutes per gap or an overload of 2.45 minutes. This was just plain greed on the part of the block timer and the carrier network. Naturally, by sheer volume and repetition, the poor viewers couldn't help but to remember the ads. Among the traditional media, television rules. This could explain why Mar Roxas is on top, and neophytes Pia Cayetano and Jamby Madrigal are doing well. (The endorsement of Juday obviously did not hurt Madrigal either.) Their ads may not win awards (as compared to the inspiring ads of Roco, for instance) but they obviously connected with the market.

3. In boxing, as in Philippine politics, there are only the winner and the cheated. "Manny should have become the new undisputed featherweight champion of the world if only one of the judges scored it like the other two (10-6) in the first round." Never mind that the supervisor of the fight ruled it was a judgment call and therefore cannot be overturned. Never mind that Pacquiao failed to finish off Marquez (as it turned out, he injured his killer left hand after the first round and had a blistered foot that blunted his foot speed). Or that Marquez connected with more punches than Pacquiao (122 versus 100) in the latter rounds. Pacquiao was "robbed of victory" because our experts said so. To be sure, regardless of the final count, the losers in this election will be crying "We wuz robbed!"

4. Losers should learn from Pacquaio's experience. Interviewed after the fight, the "people's champion" tearfully expressed regret for not getting the title despite doing all he could. Instead of goading him to feel worse by protesting about the bum call of a judge, we should tell him that his gritty performance showed he deserves our continuing admiration and support. That in any contest, it's playing the game as best and as fair as you can, it's fighting despite the odds—not the final outcome—that shows the spirit of a true winner. Like Pacquiao, both Roco and Villanueva are true champions in my book.

—ED DAMES,
Unit 7B Vernida 1 Bldg.,
120 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Immortal Nick Joaquin

"GOOD night, sweet Nick." F. Sionil Jose, as speaker for the Filipino National Artists, ended his speech with these words on the stage of the main theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines one bright and very hot May morning in Manila, during a sincere and emotional farewell to the most illustrious drinker of San Miguel Beer. Sionil had to fight back tears all the time. I remember the ceremony in Malacañang in 2001, when Sionil was given the National Artist distinction. He gave a witty, snappy, humorous speech. But in the CCP, he could hardly finish his words of tribute to his friend Nick Joaquin, the best Filipino writer ever.

Joaquin has been praised with elation as a poet, playwright, novelist, historian, a master in every literary genre he ventured into.

But not enough emphasis has been given to Joaquin as a philosopher. Nobody has explained with such clairvoyance the creation of the Filipino identity. His dynamic view of identity as a process of becoming is really the best theory to explain what the Filipino is all about. When writing essays, novels or plays, Joaquin always found the essence of things and knew how to explain it in the most clear and understandable way. He always did it naturally.

Joaquin was reluctant to accept public recognition, homage and awards. Although he would not care at all, and his grandeur is far higher than prizes, I cannot help but think that those who give the Nobel Prize have made a big mistake in letting Joaquin go without one. Bad for them. Now that Joaquin is gone and cannot decline a homage, we in Instituto Cervantes, the Spanish Cultural Center in Manila, are preparing one for him.

As it is known, Quijano de Manila was his surname when writing articles for the press. The name "Quijano" consists of the same letters as "Joaquin" but in a different order. What not many people know is that Alonso Quijano is the name of the main character of the universal novel "Don Quijote de la Mancha," written by Miguel de Cervantes. We find it very apt to pay tribute to the memory of Joaquin by giving this name to an award that will be bestowed by the Instituto Cervantes to individuals or institutions that promote cultural relations between Spain and the Philippines.

As promoters of the Spanish culture in the Philippines, we owe a lot to Joaquin. In a time when the importance of the Hispanic layer of the Filipino identity was almost neglected, Joaquin showed his vision writing jewels in his essay "Culture and History," which includes the "famous" list of the 12 greatest events in Philippine history. The essay is a sharp and deep interpretation of history, with conclusions exposed in an attractive manner even with touches of a genuine sense of humor. Amusing Philosophy to enjoy, indeed.

Nick Joaquin is already immortal.

—JAVIER GALVÁN,
director,
Instituto Cervantes,
2515 Leon Guinto cor.
Estrada Sts.,
1004 Malate, Manila

Napocor's woes, people's cross

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition holds the present and past administrations accountable for the heavy financial losses of the National Power Corp., which reached P100 billion in 2003.

According to newspaper reports, Napocor expects to incur more losses due to the peso's depreciation, high cost of foreign borrowings and series of fuel price hikes. The 40-centavo per kilowatt-hour cap on Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment since June 2002 was also blamed for the losses.

Indeed, the rising cost of the peso against the dollar and of fuel raise Napocor's obligations to independent power producers. This is so because most, if not all, of the IPP contracts are dollar-denominated and Napocor either provides for the fuel requirement or absorbs the effect of the peso-dollar fluctuation on the cost of fuel. On top of this is the take-or-pay provision which guarantees IPPs with income from the contracted power even if not actually generated.

Napocor entered into IPP agreements starting with 12 power contracts during the Aquino administration, then with 34 during the Ramos presidency, and two under Estrada. President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the green light for the implementation of the controversial Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan Impsa deal despite questions about its legality.

Because of the onerous terms in the IPP contracts, Napocor's debts ballooned from P122 billion in 1994 to almost P1.4 trillion in 2003, which accounts for almost 20 percent of the P5.4 trillion consolidated public sector debt. Napocor's aggregate liability is equivalent to more than 40 percent of the P3.3 trillion debt of the national government and 70 percent of the P2.1 trillion total debt of state-owned and controlled corporations. Despite the so-called savings from the re-negotiated IPP contracts that Ms Macapagal brags about, Napocor's financial obligation keeps growing.

Did the government really make some savings from the renegotiation of IPP contracts? We'll never know until the government shows us the details of the amended contracts.

The level of Napocor's debt is alarming as it largely contributes to the current debt crisis; as government has to borrow heavily from international and local markets to help finance it. Recently, the government raised $400-million sovereign-guaranteed bonds for Napocor, which is part of its $1.5 billion borrowing requirement for 2004.

The FDC believes that the government can reduce Napocor's huge monetary obligations, stanch its financial hemorrhage and address the high cost of electricity by taking decisive actions, such as the cancellation of the IPP contracts. Unless the government does so, Napocor will sink deeper into the debt pit and the people will continue to bear on their shoulders the cross of expensive power.

—LIDY B. NACPIL,
secretary general,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St., Central District, QC

WE DON'T REALLY HOLD MANY HOMECOMINGS SINCE MOST OF OUR GRADUATES ARE NOT HOME.

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Tension up as losing bets hang on

Bomb scare, irked Perez throw off count

By Marlon Ramos and Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A BOTTLE containing sand created a stir outside a school in Calamba, Laguna where the canvassing was being held after residents called police when they mistook the harmless bottle for a bomb.

Senior Insp. Boy Masongsong, head investigator of the city police, said they received a telephone call from a resident near the Calamba Central School 2 at about 9 a.m. who reported seeing what looked like a bomb outside the school.

Masongsong said they immediately checked on the report and found the supposed bomb outside the school fence.

When bomb disposal units checked the thing, they found that it was only sand placed inside a gin bottle.

"The gardener of the school was the first one who noticed the bottle. Apparently, it was meant to scare people after the local election officer proclaimed the winners in the local elections here after the canvassing ended last Thursday," Masongsong said.

He said it was impossible for anybody to plant bombs near the school because they have several police units assigned to take care of the school's security.

On Wednesday night, tension gripped the residents after supporters of mayoral candidate Saturnino Lajara held a rally and vigil outside the school premises. They accused rival candidate and incumbent Rep. Joaquin Chipeco of maneuvering the canvassing.

Cavite

In Carmona, Cavite, Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police chief, said units from the police regional mobile group would reinforce troops assigned to the town to guard the municipal hall, where around 400 supporters of opposition mayoral candidate Linda Camba were dispersed on Wednesday night.

The supporters tried to disrupt the canvassing of votes prompting policemen to fire shots to disperse the unruly crowd.

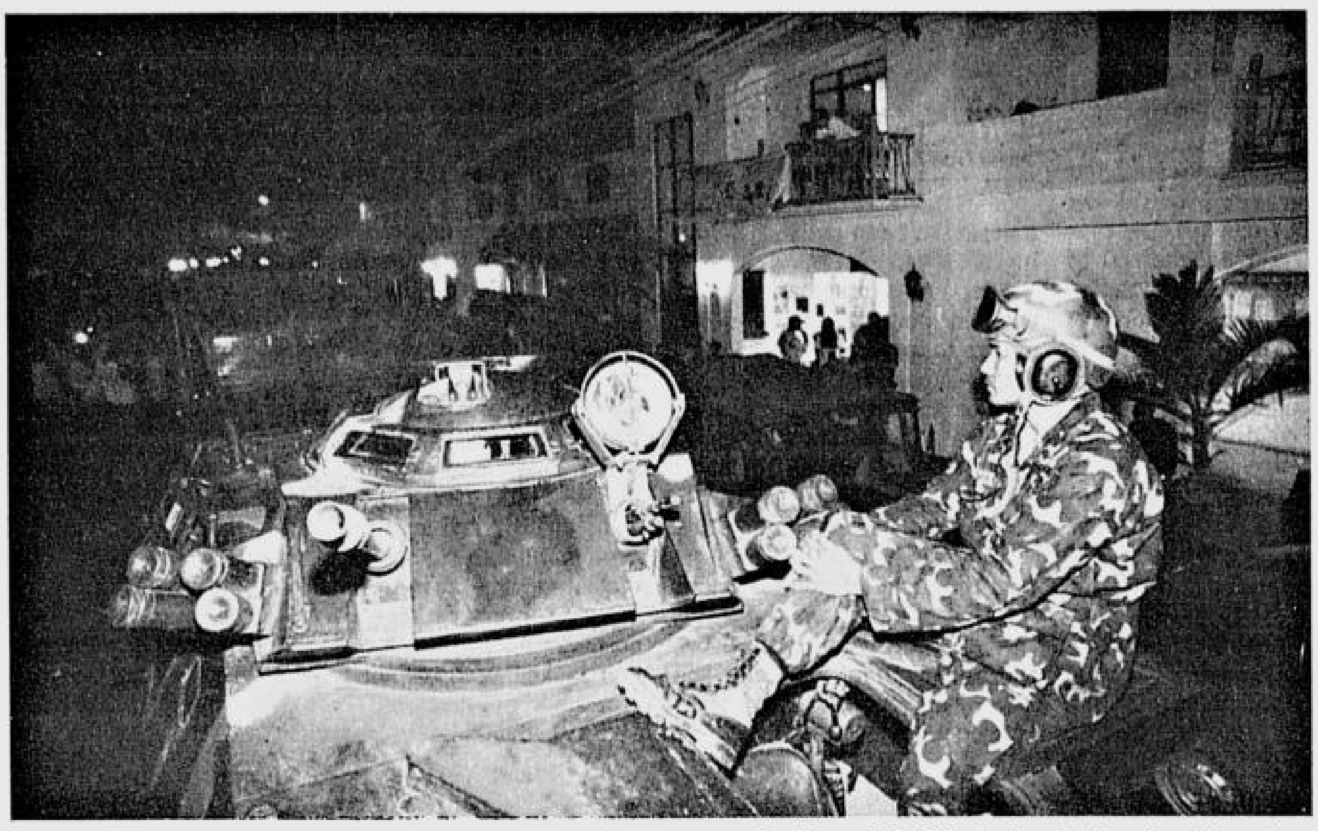
Rosales said angry supporters of Camba, who is running under the Nationalist People's Coalition, staged a rally at around 7:30 p.m. just outside the session hall where the canvassing of votes was being held.

The rallyists accused Camba's rival, Dahlia Loyola of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, of massive fraud to reverse the election results.

Rosales said some of Camba's supporters went rowdy and started throwing stones and other hard objects at the town hall.

He said the protesters even broke glass

BOMB SCARE/ A19



TANKS roll into the town of Carmona, Cavite to send a message to feuding political rivals that the law should stay in the hands of authorities.
BOY CABRIDO

Poll execs turn to soldiers for security

By PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A team of Army soldiers were each sent to the towns of Calubian in Leyte and Moises Padilla in Negros Occidental following rising tension due to election-related incidents.

Major Gen. Glenn Rabonza, head of the 8th Infantry Division based in Samar, ordered the deployment of troops to Calubian town after an Army escort of incumbent Mayor Hazel Po was shot and wounded by a supporter of defeated mayoral candidate Leonardo Omega last Wednesday.

Some 28 soldiers were deployed to Moises Padilla on Wednesday, a day after municipal election officer Elmer Era received threats to his and his family's life.

Private First Class (Pfc) George Gumba suffered a bullet wound in the chest after he was shot by Ernie Turlao at around 3 p.m. Wednesday in front of the legislative building in Calubian where the canvassing of votes was being conducted.

Po's two other escorts—Pfcs Patrinio Bermudes and Antonio Baluyot—immediately fired at Turlao who managed to escape.

Po, who was later proclaimed as winner in the mayoral contest, blamed his opponent for the shooting incident.

"By shooting my escort, he (Omega) would like to send a message. He does not want me to assume the post," Po told the INQUIRER in an interview over her mobile phone.

Omega denied the allegation, saying he did not have any control over his supporters.

"I have already conceded defeat even before she was proclaimed. So why should they implicate my name?" he added.

SOLDIERS/ A19

Troops deployed, count threatened

ILAGAN, Isabela—About 120 Army soldiers from the 5th Infantry Division were sent to the provincial capitol here on Thursday night to stop supporters of Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. from disrupting the canvassing of votes.

Lawyer Rey Duma, acting Isabela election supervisor, asked Army officials in the province to secure the canvassing area following a commotion at the provincial amphitheatre where the canvassing was being held on Thursday night.

Reports said some 50 Dy supporters entered the canvassing area and tried to disrupt the proceedings.

The official Commission on Elections count on Friday showed Dy trailing Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca. Padaca received 103,812 votes while Dy got 87,347 votes in 22 of 35 towns and one city in Isabela.

The National Citizens Movement for Free Elections' count on Friday showed Padaca with 197,145 votes and Dy with 152,859 votes.

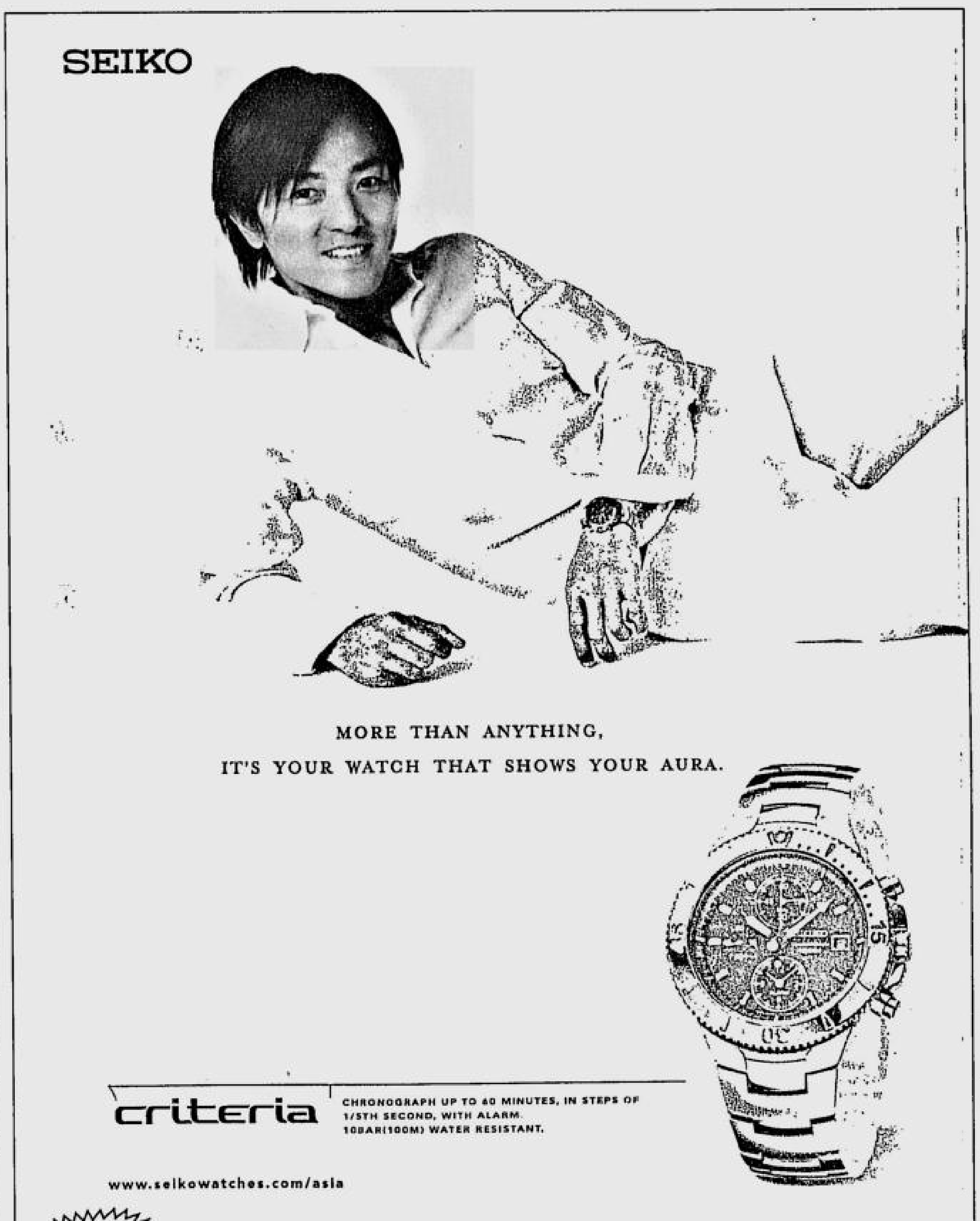
Duma suspended the canvassing on Thursday night and resumed it at 9 a.m. Friday.

More than 3,000 supporters of Dy and Padaca massed up at the capitol grounds on Thursday but they left before Army soldiers arrived.

Dy, one of the leaders of the Dy political clan, said he would respect whatever would be the outcome of the elections in his province.

But Dy said he would not concede the race until the results of the final Comelec canvassing were known.

TROOPS/ A19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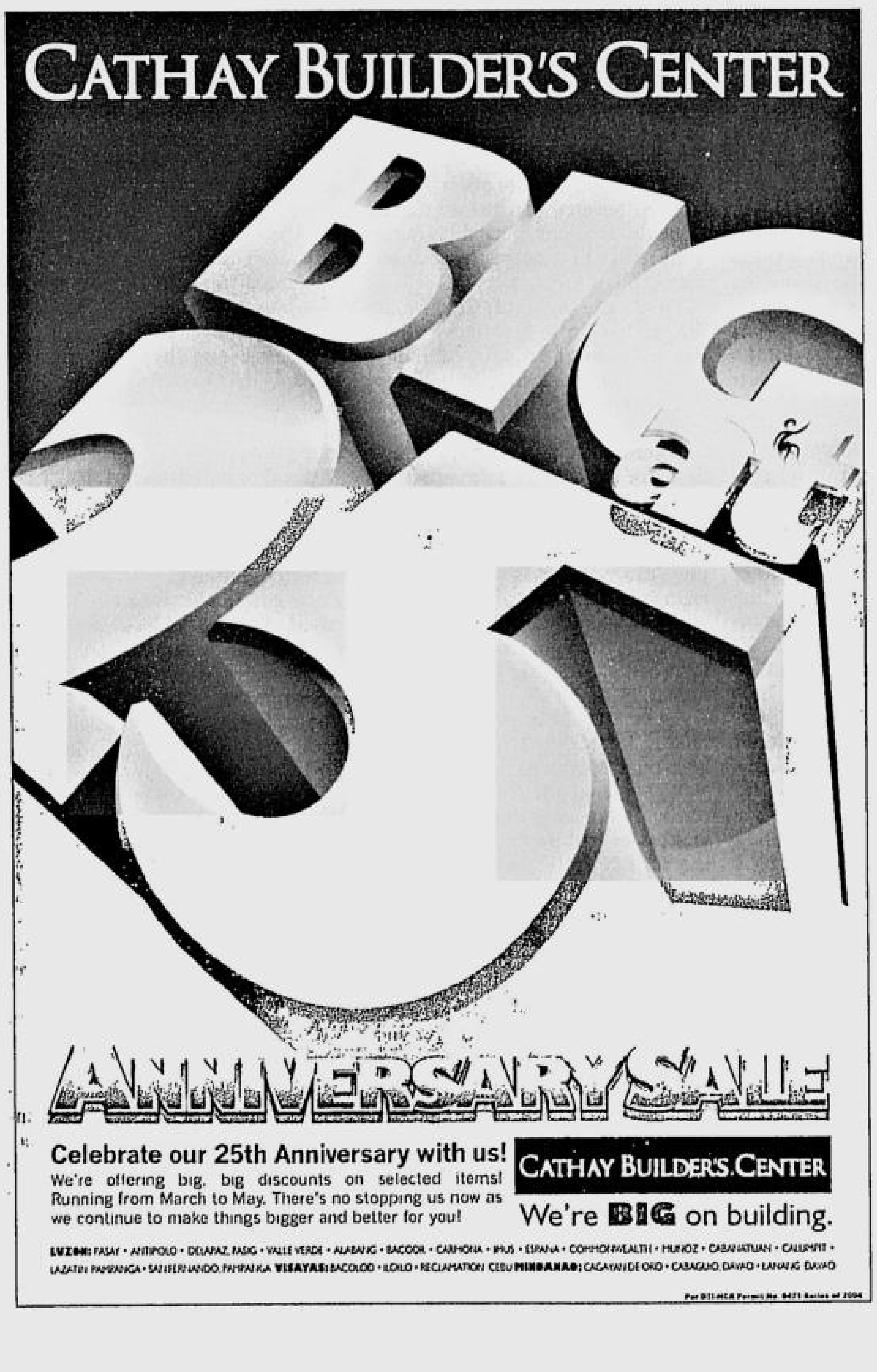

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The pain of betrayal

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

ON THE squalid arena of local politics, perfidy is the name of the game, the general rule rather than the exception, the not-so-secret weapon of hardcore *tradpols* (traditional politicians) and allied species.

In this year's rat race, familiar names stood out, the same people who have frolicked and thrived in electoral sludge for ages. The same candidates slugged it out on May 10 to preserve their family traditions, sacred little kingdoms and pork barrel funds.

Vice Gov. John Gregory "John-john" Osmeña, a political greenhorn just learning the ropes of this very cruel game, now knows the pain of betrayal. He paid the price for believing that sweet-talking politicians, including his father, couldn't go back on their word.

Having been groomed by Gov. Pablo Garcia as his anointed successor, the unsuspecting upstart willingly gave his all—heart, soul and the Capitol's vault—to the wily veteran.

Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña, a survivor of many great electoral battles, at once saw the handwriting on the wall and cautioned John-john. But the prodigal son made an egregious decision that would haunt him for the rest of his life: He decided that his father's mortal enemy was more deserving of his trust.

When the day of reckoning came, and having gotten what he wanted, Garcia dropped the vice governor and anointed his daughter Gwendolyn. The brazen deception has gone down as one of the greatest political swindles in the annals of Cebu politics.

If that ruse hurt John-john, his father's decision to cut a deal with a rival candidate and dump him at the last minute must have been truly devastating.

Ever the pragmatic, cold-blooded politician more determined to preserve his winning record in politics ("I've never lost an election") than family unity (or what's there left to preserve), Senator Osmeña chose to salvage a sputtering campaign over a chance to win back John-john's respect.

In the name of political glory, Sonny has parted ways with his brother, cousins and wife. Now, should we count his only son among his growing list of estranged relatives?

But the Osmeñas don't have the monopoly on ruthless political horse-trading. Other politicians know how to play this game.

At crunchtime, Alfredo "Pedong" Ouano, patriarch of the influential Ouano clan of Mandaue City in Cebu's sixth district, withdrew his endorsement of Gwendolyn Garcia after religiously buttering her up for months.

The former city mayor claimed his endorsement of Gwendolyn was a joke—as if politics for a dyed-in-the-wool politician like him is just a joke and not a very lucrative business. He didn't really mean to convince the governor's daughter, Pedong recanted, that more than anyone, she was in line for her father's coveted post.

It looked funny if not for the grotesque implications: Pedong asking Lady Gwen to please sit down and then suddenly kicking the chair away as she does. Where did old-school courtesy go?

The real reason: Ouano had come to terms with his family's bitter nemesis, Senator Osmeña. Under the supposed deal, the senator promised to junk his long-time ally, Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, in favor of Ouano's daughter Joy.

At the height of his belligerence, the senator belittled the great Ouano family as "smugglers." Pedong, therefore, should have been smoking and mouthing the immortal words of Bugs Bunny: "This means war."

However, in politics, libel and honor are nothing. Winning is everything.

Joy, a city councilor, wanted to extend her family's clout and winning streak to the House of Representatives, and needed Sonny's supporters to get there.

Congresswoman Soon-Ruiz's fault? She failed to help Osmeña's cause in the sixth district. With his ratings in various survey fast slipping, Senator Osmeña desperately scrounged around for local support—even if that meant disposing of his loyal supporters who couldn't anymore deliver.

Did Sonny get enough to make it back to the Senate?

Many Cebuanos remember his famous "*Magpuasa kamo* (You starve)" and "weather-weather *lang*" lines after the 1998 elections when he and his presidential candidate Joseph Estrada bombed out in Cebu.

When the senator started to make good his threat, realigning funds for local projects to other places, Cebu natives lamented "the betrayal." A few days from now, we shall know how bad they really felt.

WILK: British donor

BMW meant 80 houses for poor

By Carla P. Gomez
La Carlota City

IF ONLY more rich Filipinos will do what this Briton did, the homeless may be fewer in the Philippines.

Dylan Wilk, 29, owns a computer games firm in England. Last year, he sold his new luxury car, a BMW, not to buy another or bigger one but to finance the building of houses for the poor in the country.

Wilk is a volunteer of the Gawad Kalinga, a project started in 1995 by a Catholic group, Couples for Christ. Through their action, the volunteers hope that they can help the poor not only to build their homes but also to become self sufficient.

Wilk said the money he received for selling his Silver M3 BMW in 2003—equivalent to P3.2 million—was able to build 80 houses in Bulacan. The houses are now home to 600 people.

Wilk's example actually inspired three wealthy Filipinos to do the same. Choosing to remain unnamed, they have decided to give up their two BMWs and a Ford Explorer and give the proceeds from the purchase of the vehicles to build more houses, according to the foreign benefactor.

Two weeks ago, Wilk was in Negros Occidental to help build houses and teach the beneficiaries how to start sustainable livelihood programs. He also spread the word about the Gawad Kalinga abroad to raise funds.

Guilty

The Briton said he learned of the charitable project from a Filipino friend, Donna Rodil, who went to England in 2002 and told him that she was feeling guilty about going there because the cost of her ticket could build two houses for the poor.

"She told me all about the GK work, so in January, 2003, I stopped by the Philippines for three hours to visit a GK site," Wilk narrated.

"I had just bought my BMW. But when I got back to England, I felt guilty about driving it when it could build 80 houses for the poor," he said.

Not long after, he decided to part ways with his car, but it was not the only possession that the GK convert had sold. He also sold his Gameplay.com business and now spends more time in the Philippines helping the program carry out its mission, along with about 100,000 other Filipino volunteers throughout the country.

While in Negros, Wilk joined other volunteers and personnel from the Department of Agriculture in promoting food self-sufficiency in two GK communities in Negros Occidental.

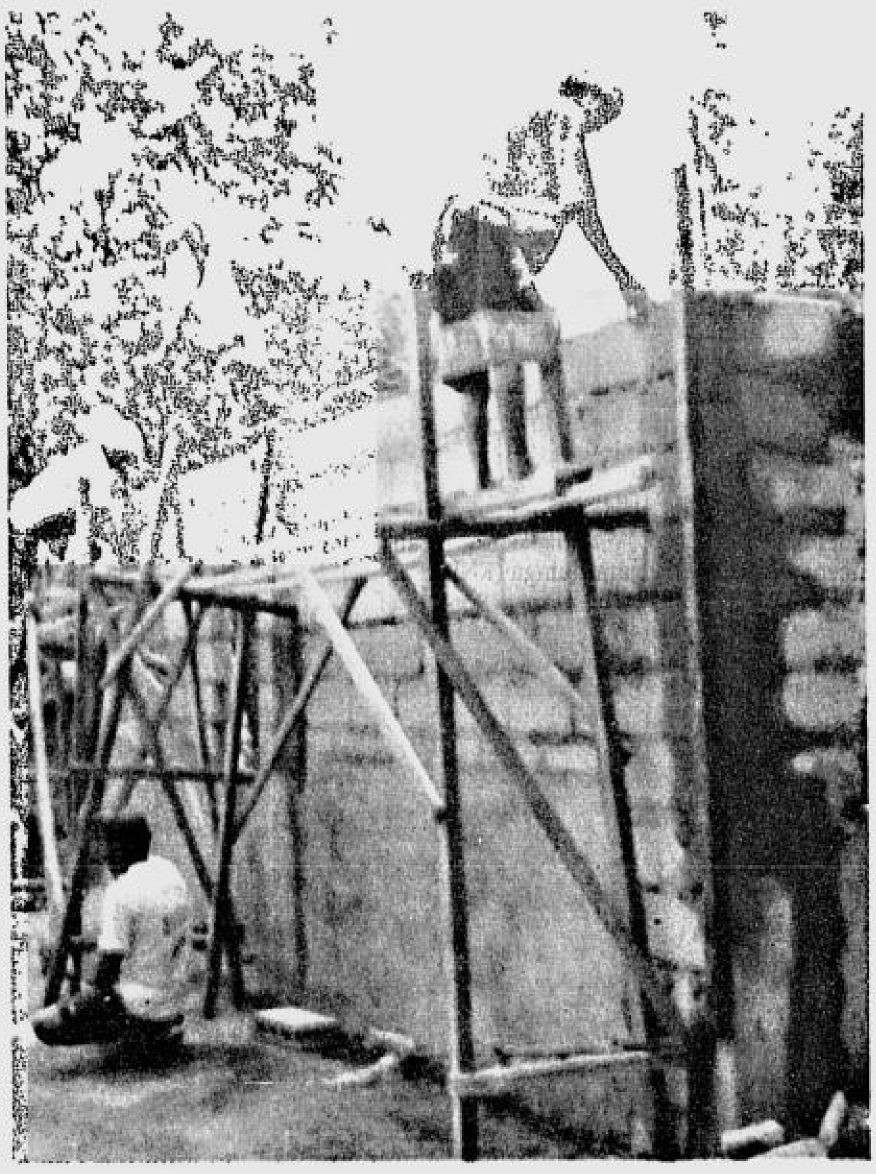
Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, chair of the National Council on Food Security and Jobs Creation, visited the Dacutan Diutay fishing village in Barangay Balaring, Silay City, and Hacienda Remedios in Barangay Balabag, La Carlota City.

In Dacutan Diutay, GK provincial head Bob Magalona said 32 houses had already been built out of a target of 40 houses for 200 people.

The neighborhood association owns a bakery and residents are now working on a fishpond to raise *tilapia* to boost their livelihood, Magalona said. He said the group also planned to raise mud crabs and put up a communal vegetable garden.

Change for the better

The projects, he said, would enable residents to produce their own food and earn money, too.



RESIDENTS build Gawad Kalinga houses in Hacienda Remedios in La Carlota City.

CARLA P. GOMEZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

One of the beneficiaries, Wilmer Go, 38, recalled that before the GK came to his rescue, he and his family used to live in a congested squatters area in Silay.

"With the help of GK, we no longer live in a squatters' village but have brightly painted homes spread apart, providing a healthier environment for us to live in," he said in Hiligaynon. "GK has taught us values that has enabled households in the village to live harmoniously and collectively solve problems."

More than building them homes, the program "has helped (us) changed our lives," Go said.

In Hacienda Remedios, which is owned by Tony Infante, agrarian reform beneficiaries are also getting GK homes.

So far, 10 out of the 50 targeted houses for about 250 people have been built, Magalona said.

To augment their livelihood, the residents are now growing organic vegetables and producing bio-fertilizer for sale under the program, volunteer Art Zayco said.

Lorenzo said the agriculture department would also assist the GK villages in providing production inputs, and technical, financial and marketing networks so that the target communities could sustain food production and income-generating enterprises.

Since the Couples for Christ movement started the project in 1995, 273 GK communities have so far been built all over the country.

"It is not just building houses but really improving communities," beamed Antonio Meloto, GK executive director.

Right now, the agriculture department and the GK are jointly developing 46 areas throughout the country, seven of which are in the Visayas. These areas, according to Lorenzo, will become models of village-based entrepreneurship and agri-technology, such as vegetable gardening and livestock raising, not only in the countryside but also in urban communities.

"We believe poverty could be minimized and solved by providing beneficiary communities the opportunities to empower themselves by providing them the needed assistance and basic knowledge to enable them to feed themselves first, and later to earn additional income so they could afford other basic needs," he said.

"We hope this Gawad Kalinga project will help ease poverty in the Visayas," he said.

Hope, pride

The five other communities in the Visayas to be covered by the joint DA-GK project are in Concepcion, Iloilo; Budlaan, Cebu; Hilongos, Southern Leyte; Mc Arthur, Leyte; and in Maasin City, Southern Leyte.

Meloto said that with these new communities, the GK would be helping the poor help themselves and show that the program was "about nation building; about looking at the poor not as a burden but the greatest potential of this country."

"If we just organize and motivate them and help them aspire for a better life, then we will unleash the greatest asset we have—which is the poor," he said.

More importantly, he added, "this is about Filipinos taking pride in themselves again as a people; seeing not hopelessness but hope."

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ELEKSYON 2004

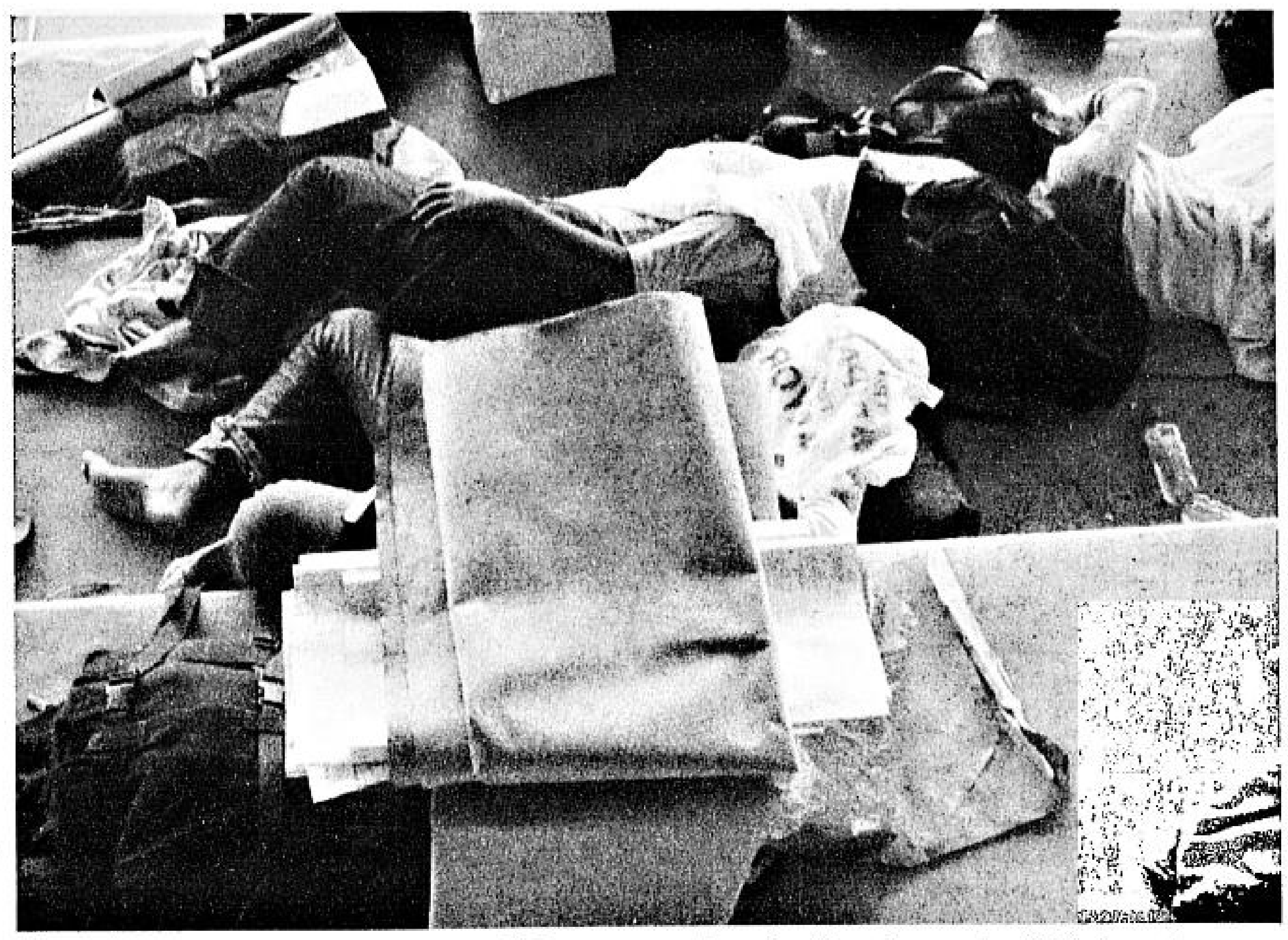
Twists, turns in local races

AS THE results of the elections come in, the political landscape in the provinces becomes clearer and here are some of the images that have been drawn.

- It is a double whammy for the Villanuevas of Bocaue, Bulacan, as Bangon Pilipinas presidential candidate Eduardo Villanueva loses in his hometown. Villanueva, founder of the Jesus Is Lord Movement, trailed actor Fernando Poe Jr. by 2,839 votes. The evangelist's son, Bocaue Mayor Eduardo Villanueva Jr., also loses in his reelection bid.
- The loyalty of Nueva Vizcaya voters stays with outgoing Rep. Carlos Padilla as the legislator tops the senatorial race in the province. Padilla, with 80,945 votes, leads second placer Juan Ponce Enrile (with 43,775 votes) by 36,720 votes. Padilla's wife, Ruth, however, is trailing in the lone congressional district race.
- The six reelectionist representatives of Pangasinan win fresh mandates. They are Arthur Celeste (first district), Amado Espino (second district), Generoso Tulagan (third district), Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. (fourth district), Marcos Cojuangco (fifth district) and Conrad Estrella III (sixth district). De Venecia and Cojuangco, son of business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., ran unopposed.
- The political fortune of the Pagdangananans of Calumpit, Bulacan, starts to ebb. Vice gubernatorial candidate Raymond Pagdanganan trails reelectionist Vice Gov. Aurelio Plamenco. Raymond is a son of former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan. His cousin, mayoral candidate Jojo Pagdanganan, son of outgoing Calumpit Mayor Ramon Pagdanganan, lost to Dr. James de Jesus.
- The Liberal Party is far from moribund in Quezon as four of its candidates for House seats are headed for victories. In the province's first district, Rep. Rafael Nantes ran unopposed when former Quezon board member Claro Talaga withdrew his candidacy several days before the election. The Comelec has proclaimed him as the district representative.

The trend is irreversible for the victory of the three other LP candidates, former Rep. Danilo Suarez, in Quezon's third district, defeating former provincial board member Chito Serrano; Proceso Alcala, in the second district having a comfortable lead over incumbent Rep. Lynette Punzalan (Lakas-CMD) and Lucena Councilor Romano Talaga (KNP).

- In Camarines Norte, former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato (KNP) took an early lead in the congressional race for the province's lone district. Partial and unofficial results showed that Chato has now a clear majority over incumbent Rep. Renato Unico Jr. in the two-cornered fight in almost all of the 12 municipalities of the province.
- Losing mayoral bet Francisco Tito of gold-rich Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, feared for his life, claiming his critics were out to kill him. Tito lost to Manuel Brillantes, brother of slain Monkayo Mayor Joel Brillantes. Tito was earlier tagged as the one behind the mayor's killing last year.
- President Macapagal won over Fernando Poe Jr. by 197 votes in Namfrel's final tally of 3,213 of 3,641 precincts in Davao City. No one knows what the results would be if the votes in the "inconsistency-laden" election returns from the remaining 428 precincts were canvassed.
- The chair of the municipal board of canvassers in the town of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat is missing resulting in the stalled canvassing of election returns from 21 precincts, out of 70 clustered precincts. Commission on Elections Regional Director for Central Mindanao Clarita Callar said the last time that Lumina Pangamadon reported for the canvassing was on May 11. The night of May 11, Callar she said Pangamadon reportedly told her colleagues she felt sick and had to leave. She failed to return since. Callar said as soon as they could find a replacement, canvassing would resume. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Central Luzon Desk; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Romulo O. Ponte PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Anthony S. Allada, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



SLEEP for these election personnel in Lanao del Sur comes at a time when the votes come in at their slowest rate.
JEFFREY PAGACINGAN MARINGO/CONTRIBUTOR

Namfrel, Comelec tallies in Mindoro seen conflicting

CALAPAN CITY—The provincial chair in Mindoro Occidental of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) said he was puzzled by conflict in the figures being counted by his group and the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Fr. Philip Alcantara, Namfrel Occidental Mindoro chair, said the number of votes that the Comelec was tabulating was less than that being tabulated by the Namfrel.

Percentages

While the Comelec has already declared it has counted 100 percent of the votes in the province, Namfrel records showed that only 96 percent of the votes had been counted by the volunteer election watchdog group.

According to volunteer Norman Novio, election results from 20 precincts were not counted because only 85 percent was actually required by the Namfrel to perform its duty and the Namfrel has accomplished already 96 percent.

At about 4 a.m., yesterday, the Comelec proclaimed the provincial winners.

Occidental Mindoro has been declared one of the four hot spots to be closely watched during this elections.

Ramos also said that in general, the elections have been peaceful, honest, orderly and clean.

In Calapan City, the Comelec proclaimed a new city mayor, Carling Brucal.

He replaced three-term Mayor Arnan Panaligan, who now leads the vice gubernatorial race.

Five bets

For the first time, five candidates competed for the mayoral position.

In Mansalay town, 145 km away from the city, incumbent Mayor Teresita "Terry" Maliwanag claimed that she was being cheated and requested a stop to the canvassing of votes.

Comelec provincial chair Leonardo Abeleda Jr., however, suggested to local Comelec officials that they proceed with the proclamation because the contested votes are significantly less than the margin of her rival. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bomb scare, irked Perez throw off count

From page A17

panels at the hall's main entrance.

When the group tried to barge into the building, police had to disperse the rallyists using water cannons.

He said no one was hurt in the dispersal.

Rosales criticized Camba for consenting with her supporters in disrupting the canvassing. He said as a leader and lawyer, "Camba should have just told her followers to calm down and bring their allegations to the court."

"These are acts of irresponsible politicians. If they are really true servants of the people, the candidates should be models to their followers. Camba should have told her supporters to refrain from doing illegal acts and instead just file their complaints at the proper forum," Rosales said.

Despite the incident, election officer Juana Sarmiento decided to move on with the proclamation of winners at around 11 p.m.

Several police units and Marines were sent to the area to prevent violence.

An armored personnel carrier was also deployed outside the municipal building.

But Paul Espiritu, a candidate for councilor under Camba's ticket, said they never provoked the policemen and accused them of supporting Loyola, wife of incumbent Mayor Roy Loyola.

He also criticized Sarmiento of manipulating the results of the canvassing in favor of Loyola.

He said Camba was clearly leading by 2,000 votes in their monitoring.

"Loyola suddenly took the lead after the Comelec started the canvassing. They tried to proclaim Loyola even if the canvassing was still ongoing," Espiritu said.

Batangas

In Batangas, at the height of the search for missing election returns, the city's board of canvassers and lawyers of both parties were shocked to receive a tongue lashing from former justice secretary and Lakas gubernatorial candidate Hernando "Nani" Perez who came to the city council hall at 10:35 Thursday night.

The tongue-lashing was directed at the Comelec's supposed failure to finish the canvassing on time.

Perez blamed the canvassers for the loss of the seven election returns that has slowed down the canvassing. Perez also lambasted lawyer Jose Amor Amorado, who represents Liberal Party mayoral candidate and incumbent Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha.

"Atty. Amorado shouldn't be here representing Dimacuha because he is the legal counsel for K-4 and Wawing Chavez is mayoral candidate of K-4, "Perez said. "He should represent K-4 candidates!"

Perez, who came with running mate Ricky Recto and about 20 supporters, got an applause from their group, but when Amorado tried to explain his position, the Perez crowd booed him.

"I am the secretary general for K-4. And K-4 is paying Amorado, but he's representing Dimacuha," Perez said.

While he was trying to defend his position, Amorado was cut off by Perez and booed by Perez's supporters.

Amorado said his appearance at the canvassing hall was as Dimacuha's lawyer.

"But as the lawyer for K-4, we also have a written guideline which is to protect the votes of the President, her running mate for vice president and the Lakas' 12 senators. That was what I was doing there," Amorado added.

Amorado resigned as legal counsel for the K-4 early morning on Friday.

"I was very humiliated. Nani (Perez) was out of line, but I wasn't rude to him as he was to me because of due respect to him as my former teacher at the Ateneo," Amorado added, "And he was supposed to be a statesman *pero bastos pala siya*."

As of press time, Dimacuha had garnered 464 votes ahead of Chavez, whose supporters continued to protest the incumbent mayor's votes.

But more than 100 police and Army men had been assigned to protect the besieged city hall.

Troops deployed as protests threaten counting

From page A17

"It is premature to say who wins (for governor) in the elections. Let us not speculate on who is the winner. The canvassing is not yet finished," he said.

Alexander Dy, a brother of the Dys, lost to Edgar Go for mayor of San Mariano town. In Angadanan town, Benjamin Dy Jr. is trailing Jose Panganiban Jr. for mayor.

Reelectionist Rep. Faustino Dy III won by a landslide over businessman Carlos Chan in the third congressional district, while his brothers, Caesar and Napoleon, won as mayors of Cauayan City and Alicia, respectively.

In Pampanga, two campaign leaders of losing City of San Fernando mayoral candidate Andrea Domingo, former chief of the Bureau of Immigration, were arrested on Friday as they led some 500 people in storming the city hall.

Supt. Nicanor Targa, San Fernando police chief, said the arrests were made to stop the others from destroying the gate and possibly disrupting the last phase of the canvassing at the city council office.

The police, Targa said, had exercised "maximum tolerance" since Wednesday when the supporters of Domingo, her son, congressional candidate Dr. Eric Domingo, and another losing mayoral candidate, Eligio Lagman, began holding protest rallies and pickets at the city hall over alleged "wholesale ballot switching and tampering of election returns."

Domingo's rival, Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, and her son's rival, Mayor Reynaldo Aquino, resorted to these schemes, she said.

Rodriguez and Aquino denied the allegations and accused the Domingos of committing "massive electoral fraud."

In Bulacan, losing vice gubernatorial candidate Raymond Pagdanganan and members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan accused administration candidates of vote-buying and harassment.

The Bayan Muna and the other militant groups in Bulacan picketed the Hiyas Convention Center in Malolos City where the provincial canvassing of votes was being held.

But Gregorio Larrazabal, Bulacan election officer, dismissed the allegations, saying no major irregularity happened in the conduct of the elections and canvassing.

He asked the protesters to file their complaints before the proper government offices if they had enough evidence to support their allegations.

In Abra, the canvassing of votes cast in Tineg town started on Friday in the capital town of Bangued. The elections in remote Tineg town were postponed on Monday due to bad weather and the conflict between rival politicians in the town.

Incumbent Mayor Edwin Crisologo and Antonio Benwaren, brother of slain Mayor Clarence Benwaren, are contesting the mayoral seat.

Reports from the Cordillera police said six ballot boxes that were snatched in Tinglayan, Kalinga on Tuesday were recovered on Wednesday. The ballot boxes were taken to the Kalinga police office for safekeeping.

Reports also said police in Natonin, Mt. Province, recovered 29 envelopes containing election returns from reelectionist Councilor Constancio Poryasen.

The police said they also recovered a bottle filled with gasoline from Poryasen.

Except for Kalinga and Apayao, most of the Cordillera towns proclaimed their winning elected officials on Thursday night.

Armando Velasco, Comelec Cordillera director, went to Abra on Friday to persuade teachers there to start the counting.

Lawyer Julius Torres, Comelec deputy director, said teachers refused to begin the count, fearing reprisals from political contenders, "but we could not determine who they were afraid of."

Comelec also delayed the proclamation of elected members of the Benguet provincial board after reelectionist Board Member Marciano Inso complained of "*dagdag-bawas*" (vote padding and shaving). *Reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Artha Kira Paredes, Donna Demetillo and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Soldiers called in to prevent bloodshed

From page A17

Last May 7, Basano Saba and Edgardo Medellin, two of Omega's supporters, were shot and killed by four armed men in Barangay Obispo, Calubian.

Omega believed that the suspects belonged to the mayor's camp, an allegation denied by Po.

In Moises Padilla, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sodusta, 303rd Brigade commander, deployed 28 soldiers to help ensure that the canvassing of votes was undisturbed following the death threats received by the election officer.

Era received the threats during the canvassing of votes on Tuesday night, prompting him to suspend the proceeding and leave the municipal hall.

He was later confined at the Bacolod Sanitarium Hospital in Bacolod City due to high blood pressure.

Replacement

Provincial Comelec supervisor Marsha Cordero immediately assigned assistant poll officer Zahartesa Avila of Valladolid town to supervise the canvassing in Moises Padilla in the absence of Era.

On the same night, Alberto Ranilla, a close in security of incumbent Mayor Jose Garcia Jr., was arrested at about 9:30 p.m. after he was caught carrying a .38 cal. pistol and 14 bullets in a checkpoint manned by soldiers of the 11th Infantry Battalion at the town proper. Garcia is seeking re-election against Frank Nazareno.

The father of a vice mayoral candidate is facing charges for brandishing an Armalite rifle inside the City Hall in Roxas City, Capiz on Wednesday night.

Angel Celino, father of Councilor Alan Celino, was charged with violation of the Comelec gun ban before the city prosecutor's office in Roxas.

Supt. Norlito Bautista, Capiz police director, confiscated a baby Armalite rifle, which Angel allegedly brandished as an act of protest against what he believed was the plan of some people to rob his son of his "clear victory."

Confined

Angel, who owns a gun store here, escaped detention after his blood pressure shot up. He is now confined at the Capiz Doctors Hospital.

Angel joined his son's supporters in going to the City Hall on Wednesday night upon learning that the canvassing of votes was suspended because of a bomb threat and a 20-minute power interruption that occurred two hours later.

Celino's supporters believed that the bomb threat, which turned out to be a hoax, was meant to pave the way for a plan to manipulate the election results.

Celino was leading the race by more than 1,000 votes. *Joey A. Gabieta, Carla P. Gomez, Gerry T. Pagharion, Felipe Celino and Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

voted by readers
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PLATINUM 2004
Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND
PLATINUM 2004
SUPERBRAND HALL OF FAME
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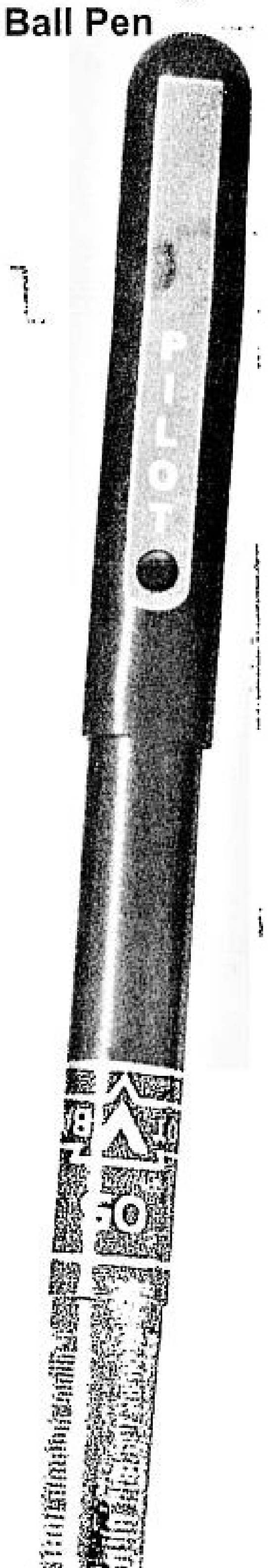
SUPER BRAND
GOLD
Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999
PILOT
VBALL
VballGRIP
Unique Liquid Ink Rolling Ball Pen



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(National Capital Region)
Malabon

CAR
(Cordillera Autonomous Region)
ATTY. ARMANDO VELASCO
ABRA: MR. EUGENE RAMOS
Bangued, Danglas, La Paz,
Tineg – Failure

REGION I

BATANES:
EVELYN ABAD
Fuga – Failure,
Babuyan – Failure

PANGASINAN:
ATTY. TEMIE LAMBINO
Natividad, San Carlos City, Rosales, San Nicolas, San Manuel, Tayug

KALINGA:
ATTY. THOMAS UYAM
Pasil, Lubuagan, Tanudan, Tinglayan

ILOCOS SUR:
ATTY. JOEL J. GINES
Bantay, Sta. Maria, Narvacan

ILOCOS NORTE:
ATTY. NILO PIPO
Currimao, Nueva Era, Paoay

REGION II

CAGAYAN:
ATTY. MICHAEL VALDEZ
Enrile, Buguey

ISABELA:
ATTY. ERWIN VALEROSO
Santiago City, Echague, Ilagan, Angadonan, Jones, Naguilan, San Mariano, Alicia

REGION III

NUEVA ECIJA:
ATTY. EMMANUEL E. IGNACIO
Muñoz

BULACAN:
ATTY. GREGORIO LARRAZABAL
Bustos

PAMPANGA:
ATTY TEMIE LAMBINO
Arayat

BATAAN:
ATTY. ORLANDO D. TORRES
Mariveles

REGION IV

CAVITE :
ATTY. JUANITO V. RAVANZO
(entire province)

BATANGAS:
ATTY. JUAN C. MALABANAN
Mabini

REGION V

ALBAY:
ATTY. MA. JUANA S. VALEZA
Pio Duran, Ligao City

CAMARINES SUR:
ATTY. LIZA Z. CARIÑO
Balato, Buhi, Caramoan

MASBATE:
ATTY. MOHAMMAD HASSAN
(entire province)

SORSOGON:
ATTY. JOSE O ZAMORA
Matnog, Bulan, Castillo, Sta. Magdalena

REGION VII

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ATTY. JUAN BAUTISTA
Oras

WESTERN SAMAR:
ATTY. FEDERICO H. CAROLINO
Tagapul-an, Tarangnan

CEBU:
ATTY EDWIN CADUNGOG
Santander, Madrilejos, Danao City

REGION IX

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ATTY. WILFRED JAY BALISADO
Buug

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE:
ATTY. BORROMEO B. PATANGAN
Sibuco, La Libertad, Siocon

BASILAN:
MR. WILFREDO DARAUG
(entire province)

SULU:
MR.M. REYNALDO S. PESCADERA
(entire province)
TAWI-TAWI:
MR. IDLANA MANGONA
South Ubian

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR:
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Dimataling, Dinas, Bayog

REGION X

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Sapang Dalaga

BUKIDNON:
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Valencia City, Baungon

REGION XI

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Monkayo

ARMM
(Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao)
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ATTY. RENATO MAGBUTAY

MAGUINDANAO:
ATTY. LINTANG BEDOL.
Sultan Kudarat, Parang, Matanog
Cotabato City

REGION XII

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Butig

CARAGA:
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SURIGAO DEL SUR:
Tandag

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ATTY. MARINO SALAS

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CATANDUANES
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PROVINCIAL TABULATIONS

ELEKSYON 2004

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)

ABRA

Comelec as of 12nn 05/14/04

Governor

Luna, Roger	21,110
Valera, Vicente.	67,281

Congressman

Aquino, Carlosr	1,858
Bersamin, Luis Jr..	76,735

BENGUET

Comelec final results

Governor
Melchor, Borromeo P.
proclaimed

Congressman
Dangwa, Samuel M.
proclaimed

Congressman (Baguio City)
Domogan, Mauricio G.
proclaimed

BAGUIO CITY

Comelec final results

Mayor
Yaranon, Braulio D.
proclaimed

IFUGAO

Comelec Final and Official Results

Governor
Cappleman, Benjamin B.
proclaimed

Congressman
Chungalao, Solomon R.
proclaimed

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Comelec Final and Official Results

Governor
Dalog, Maximo B.
proclaimed

Congressman
Dominguez, Victor S.
proclaimed

REGION 1

ILOCOS NORTE

Comelec final results

Governor
Marcos, Ferdinand, Jr. R.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
332 out of 761 precincts
Ablan, Roque, Jr. R.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Imee R. Marcos
proclaimed

LAOAG CITY

Comelec final results

Mayor
Fariñas, Michael V.
proclaimed

ILOCOS SUR

Comelec final results

Governor
Singson, Luis C.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Baterina, Salacnib F.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Singson, Eric D.
proclaimed

CANDON CITY

COMELEC final results, 05/13/04

Mayor
Singson, Allen G.
proclaimed

VIGAN CITY

COMELEC final results, 05/13/04

Mayor
Medina, Ferdinand C.
proclaimed

LA UNION

Comelec as of 2 pm, 05/12/04

Governor
Ortega, Victor Francisco C.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Ortega, Manuel C.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Dumpit, Tomas M.
proclaimed

SAN FERNANDO CITY

Comelec as of 2 pm, 05/12/04

Mayor
Ortega, Mary Jane C.
proclaimed

PANGASINAN

Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/14/04

Governor

Agbayani, Victor Aguedo E.	687,523
Goco, Marietta P.	52,183
Siapno, Juan C.	

Congressman (District 1)

Celeste, Arthur D.	79,456
Agbayani, Luis E.	520,095

Congressman (District 2)

Espino, Amado, Jr. T	92,028
Cruz, Teodoro C.	48,887
Cruz, Danilo C.	

Congressman (District 3)

Mamaril, Generoso	8,402
Soriano, Orlando	40,265
Tulagan, Generoso	64,180

Congressman (District 4)
Comelec complete returns as of 05/14/04

De Venecia, Jose Jr.	139,127

Congressman (District 5)
Comelec complete returns as of 05/14/04

Cojuangco, Marcos D.	145,126

Congressman (District 6)
Comelec complete returns as of 05/14/04

Estrella, Conrado III M.	90,779
Bince Alfonso Jr C	34,829

DAGUPAN CITY

Comelec final results

Mayor
Lim, Benjie S.
proclaimed

SAN CARLOS CITY

Comelec final result

Mayor
Resuello, Julian V.
proclaimed

URDANETA CITY

Mayor
Perez, Amadeo Jr. R
proclaimed

REGION 2

BATANES

Final results Comelec

Governor
Gato, Vicente DS.
proclaimed
Caccam, German DS.

Congressman
Abad, Henedina R.
proclaimed
Castillejos, Telesforo F.
Abad, Nicanor B.

ISABELA

Comelec as of 9 am 05/14/04

Governor

Dy, Faustino, Jr. S	87,347
Padaca, Maria Gracia Cielo M.	103,812

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 9 am 05/14/04

Uy, Edwin C.	60,512
Calderon, Benito R.	33,434

Congressman (District 3)
Comelec as of 9 am 05/14/04

Dy, Faustino III DG.	42,667
Chan, Carlos	12,401

Congressman (District 4)
Comelec as of 9 am 05/14/04

Aggabao, Giorgidi B.	17,009
Miranda, Anthony C.	15,927

CAUAYAN CITY

Mayor
Dy, Cesar DG.
proclaimed

SANTIAGO CITY

Mayor
Navarro, Amelita S.
proclaimed

NUEVA VIZCAYA

Governor
Comelec final results
Cuaresma, Luisa L.
proclaimed

Congressman
Comelec final results
Agbayani, Rodolfo Q.
proclaimed

REGION 3

BULACAN

Comelec final results

Congressman (District 2)
Pancho, Pedro M.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 3)
Silverio, Lorna C.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 4)
Nicolas, Reynila G.
proclaimed

NUEVA ECIJA

Comelec as of May 14

Governor

Joson, Tomas III N.	143,880
Villareal, Julita L.	109,360
Alvaran, Dominador V.	1,706

Congressman (District 1)

Joson, Josefina M.	69,557
Diaz, Cecilia DP.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Aquino, Rodrigo F.	534

Congressman (District 2)

Violago, Eleuterio R.	38,230
Alvarez, Efren L.	23,101

Congressman (District 3)

Umali, Aurelio M.	38,209
Ordonez, Philip V.	13,068

Congressman (District 4)

Villareal, Raul L.	12,340
Antonino, Rodolfo W.	16,701
Padiernos, Justino A.	182

Mayor(Science City of Munoz)
Alvarez, Nestor
proclaimed

PAMPANGA

Namfrel final results 05/14/04

Governor

Lapid, Mark T.	334,702
Bondoc, Juan Pablo P.	167,680
Ducut, Zenaida C.	126,298
Arroño, Clark Field III C.	2,135

Congressman (District 1)

Nepomuceno, Francis L.	92,594
Lazatin, Janet Rita B.	69,994

Congressman (District 2)

Arroyo, Juan Miguel M.	137,153
Lapid, Remberto M.	24,919

Congressman (District 3)

Aquino, Reynaldo B.	83,666
Domingo, Rolando Enrique D.	53,974
Labung, Ferdinand P.	54,403

Congressman (District 4)

Bondoc, Anna York P.	83,491
Maglanque, Rene E.	43,784
Ocampo, Ramsey L.	43,494
Laxa, Antonio D.	1,951

TARLAC

Comelec final results

Governor
Yap, Jose Villa A.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Teodoro, Gilberto Jr. C.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Aquino, Benigno Simeon III C.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 3)
Lapus, Jesli
proclaimed

Mayor (Tarlac City)
Mendoza, Genaro M.
proclaimed

ZAMBALES

Namfrel final 05/14/04

Governor

Magsaysay, Vicente P.	105,920
Montalla, Cheryl D.	80,166

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec results
Magsaysay, Maria Milagros H.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)

Diaz, Antonio M.	57,526
Mendaros, Edwin DV.	36,163
Torres, Ruben D.	35,134

Mayor (Olongapo City)
Comelec official results
Gordon, James J.
proclaimed

REGION 4-A

BATANGAS

Namfrel as of 4pm 5/14/04

Governor

Apacible, Rosario	183,186
Alienza, Arturo	2,193
Hernandez, Nicomedes	21,605
Mandanas, Marcos Jr.	14,252
Perez, Hernando.	153,270
Samson,Rojeto	1,256
Sanchez, Armando	177,987

Congressman (District 2)

Mandanas, Hermilando	138,264

Congressman (District 3)

Bathan, Carlos	21,907
Nora, Gregorio	9,465
Reyes, Victoria.	51,716
Santillan, Jonathan	1,216

Congressman (District 4)

Gozos, Oscar	111,627
Linatoc, Donato	23,317
Llanes, Modesto Jr..	397
Recto, Ramon	9,746

Mayor (Batangas City)
Comelec as of 10 am 5/14/04

Chavez, Ruel	48,869
Dimacuha, Eduardo	49,338

Mayor (Lipa City)

Mantuano, Melecio Jr.	4,000
Panganiban, Mario	6,000
Recto, Rosa Vilma	58,000
Umali, Ruben	25,000

Mayor (Tanauan City)

Aquino, Sonia.	25,440
Corona, Alfredo	29,187

CAVITE

Namfrel as of 11:30 am 5/14/04

Governor

Maliksi, Erineo	422,156
Velasco, Eppimaco	139,000
Uy, Virginia	2,477

Congressman (District 1)

Abaya, Joseph Emilio.	54,157
Encarnacion, Timoteo Jr.	22,880
Peyuan, Rogelio	4,437
Tocmo, Antonio Jr.	67

Congressman (District 2)

Benedicto, Jose.	41,357
Remulla, Gilbert Cesar	188,318
Unasco, Fedelina	1,164

Congressman (District 3)

Galang, Ronald	157
Madlansacay, Ruben	77,797
Remulla, Jesus Crispin	83,957
Tolentino, Domingo Jr..	26,047

Mayor (Cavite City)
Namfrel as of 7pm 5/12/04

Enriquez, Restuto	54,645
Parades, Bernardo	65,992

LAGUNA

Namfrel as of 4pm 5/14/04

Governor

Fernandez, Danilo Ramon	208,176
Lazaro, Teresita	209,244
San Luis, Rodolfo	186,658

Congressman (District 1)

Joaquin, Uliran	130,143
Matibag, Melvin	55,666

Congressman (District 2)

Chipeco, Justin	53,854
Ilag, Leodegario	1,451
Lajara, Severino	31,371

Congressman (District 3)

[illegible]ser, Danton	124,528
Ma[illegible]d Conrado	17,934

Congressman (District4)

Agarao, Benjamin Jr	52,442
Caballes, Louie	520
Maceda, Erwin	32,141
Palacol, Magdaleno Jr.	16,644
Soriano, Vincent	28,671

Mayor (San Pablo City)

Amante, Vicente	43,559
Aquino, Florante	27,750
Cosico, Alfredo	944
Millares, Arsenio.	21,241

REGION 4-B

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Namfrel as of 5:30pm 5/13/04

Governor

Sato, Josephine	146,447
Villarosa, Jose.	101,132

Congressman

Medalla, Pedro Jr.	38,242
Quintos, Ricardo	89,441
Villarosa, Ma. Amelita.	109,423

ORIENTAL MINDORO

Namfrel as of 5.30pm 5/13/04

Governor

Andaya, Manuel.	14
Marasigan, Bartolome Sr.	123,906
Venturanza, Thaddeos	9,931

Congressman (District 1)

Leviste, Juan Renato	50,540
Navarro, Enrico	2,075
Turano,Ligorio	19,184
Valencia, Rodolfo.	62,238
Valenton, Elias	213

Congressman (District 2)

Punzalan, Jesus	21,912
Soller, Prudente	25,529
Umali, Alfonso Jr.	5,041

PALAWAN

Comelec as of 5:54pm 5/14/04

Congressman (District 2)

Estolano, Cesar	940
Gastanes, Edwin	18,875
Mitra, Abraham Kahlil	109,268

Mayor (Puerto Princesa City)

Hagedorn, Edward	42,059
Socrates, Dennis	21,934

REGION 5

ALBAY

Namfrel as of 6:19pm 5/13/04

Governor

Bichara,Alfonso	139,486
Gonzales, Fernando	181,899

Congressman (District 1)

Gutierrez, Patria Matias	19,948
Lagman, Edcel	99,396

Congressman (District 2)

Imperial, Carlos	90,475
Los Banos, Efren	44,963

Congressman (District 3)

Reonisto,Lucia	3,488
Salceda,Jose Ma. Clemente	131,496

CAMARINES SUR

Namfrel as of 5/13/04

Governor

Alfelor, Emmanuel	91,930
Fuentevella, Felix William	128,113
Villafuerte, Luis Raymund Jr.	213,628

Congressman (District 1)

Andaya, Rolando Jr.	113,000
Dilanco, Teodoro	18,003

Congressman (District 2)

Roco, Sulpicio Jr.	72,948
Villafuerte, Luis	81,500

Congressman (District4)

Alfelor, Felix Jr.	82,545
Papin, Imelda	54,060

MASBATE

Comelec final

Congressman (District 1)

Andueza, Eduardo.	22,916
Bravo, Narciso Jr.	23,237

Mayor (Masbate City)

Sanchez, Juan Sr.	8,912
Tuason, Socrates.	18,115

SORSOGON

Namfrel as of 10:40pm 5/13/04

Governor

Frivaldo, Josephine	84,571
Lee, Raul.	108,812
Terrado, Pedro	279

Congressman (District 1)

Dineros, Daniel	480
Escudero, Francis Joseph	52,482
Gerona, Rofebar	29,990

Congressman (District 1)

Encinas, Danilo	42,271
Gamos, Nida	5,095
Golis, Nestor	355
Solis, Jose	47,748
Ubaldo, Emilio Jr.	25,587

Mayor (Sorsogon City)

Dioneda, Leovic	25,938
Leo, Sali	29,242

REGION 6

AKLAN

Comelec final complete

Governor
Marquez, Carlito S.
proclaimed

Congressman
Miraflores, Florencio T.
proclaimed

ANTIQUE

Governor
Perez, Salvacion Z.
proclaimed

Congressman
Javier, Exequiel B.
proclaimed

CAPIZ

Comelec final as of 5pm 05/13/04

Governor
Bermejo, Vicente B.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Dadivas, Rodriguez D.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Castro, Fredenil H.
proclaimed

Mayor (Roxas City)
Del Rosario, Antonio A.
proclaimed

GUIMARAS

Comelec

Governor
Nava, Joaquin Carlos
proclaimed

Congressman
Espinosa, Edgar T.
proclaimed

ILOILO

Congressman (Iloilo City)
Comelec partial as of 3 p.m. 05/14/04

Gonzales, Raul, Jr. T.	32,814
Malabor, Mansueto A.	30,110
Lopez-Vito, Rafael J.	12,589
Gerochi, Romeo P.	5,782
Carreon, Carmelo DL.	516
Espinosa, Pascual, Jr. R.	131
Alcarde, Francis M.	90
Gaje, Juanito L.	52

Congressman (District 2)
Syjuco, Judy
proclaimed

Mayor (Iloilo City)
Comelec partial official as of 3 pm 05/14/04

Treñas, Jerry P.	68,210
Facultad, Victor V.	11,324
Sarabia, Ma. Rita B.	2,752
Ang, Vicente P.	88

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Governor
Marañon, Joseph G.
proclaimed

Congressman (Lone District of Bacolod City)
Comelec partial official as of 12nn 05/14/04

Amadora, Jose Maria	61
Banbar, Archie	4,681
Orola,Juan Jr..	15,209
Puentevella, Monico	22,562

Congressman (District1)

Carmona, Tranquilino	26,919
Librando, Ernesto	6,067

Congressman (District1)
Comelec partial official as of 12nn 05/14/04

Flor, Celia Matea	3,815
Leonardia, Evelio	21,870
Quirino, Julio	44
San Joaquin, Benito.	63
Valdez, Luzviminda	18,674

Congressman (District 2)
Marañon, Alfredo III D.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 3)
Lacson, Jose Carlos V.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 4)
Cojuangco, Carlos O.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 5)
Arroyo, Ignacio T.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 6)
Alvarez, Genaro Rafael III K.
proclaimed

Mayor (Bago City)
Torres, Janet E.
proclaimed

Mayor (Cadiz City)
Escalante, Salvador Jr. G.
proclaimed

Mayor (Escalante City)
Barcelona, Santiago Jr., G
proclaimed

Mayor (San Carlos City)
Lacson, Eugenio Jose
proclaimed

Mayor (Silay City)
Namfrel as of 12nn, 5/14/04

Montelibano, Jose L.	10,700
Gamban, Carlo V.	10,514
Velez, Edwin D.	7,029

Mayor (Sipalay City)
Montilla, Oscar Jr. C.
proclaimed

Mayor (Talisay City)
Lizares, Anthony V.
proclaimed

Mayor (Victorias City)
Palanca, Severo A.
proclaimed

REGION 7

BOHOL

Namfrel as of 2:30pm, 5/14/04

Governor

Aumentado, Erico B.	212,472
Relampagos, Rene L.	176,418
Peligrino, Peter B.	728

Congressman (District 1)

Castillo, Natalio Jr..	1,138
Chatto, Edgardo.	120,055

Congressman (District 21)

Cajes, Roberto	62,641
Garcia, Filadelfo	24,425

Congressman (District 21)

Balbin, Mario	5,345
Inte, Victoriano	560
Jala, Eladio	109,064
Mendez, Leonardo	16,971

Mayor (Tagbilaran City)
Lim, Dan
proclaimed

CEBU

Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Governor

Garcia, Gwendolyn F.	167,028
Martinez, Celestino, Jr. E.	171,620
Osmeña, John Henry U.	89,750
Tuadles, Welfredo B.	2,602
Cezar, Rafael, Jr. A.	2,708

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Gullas, Eduardo R.	39,691
Rama, Enrique P.	13,645
Bolongaita, Alex A.	1,166
Lozada, Jose Mari C.	233

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Kintanar, Simeon L.	26,896
Ortega, Orvi G.	15,693

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Yapha, Antonio, Jr. P.	49,515
Cerna, Jesus P.	3,973

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Martinez, Clavel A.	48,616
Salazar, Edwin F.	4,866

Congressman (District 5)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Durano, Joseph Felix Mari H.	41,496
Dira, Rosemarie D.	20,217

Congressman (District 6)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Ruiz, Nerissa S.	87,592
Ouano, Jovita Tuela Z.	59,850
Biaño, Victor C.	3,651

Congressman (Cebu City, District 1)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Del Mar, Raul V.	112,487
Fernan, Danilo M.	10,289
Villarin, Florencio O.	2,210
Arenasa, Juan U.	1,673
Fernan, Russo C.	459

Congressman (Cebu City, District 2)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Cuenco, Antonio V.	73,400
Batuhan, Aristotle B.	62,085
Ong, Manuel F.	40

Mayor (Cebu City)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5pm, 05/14/04

Osmeña, Tomas R.	153,950
Garcia, Alvin B.	119,993
Burlas, Ananias T.	1,092

Mayor (Danao City)
Durano, Ramon III D.
proclaimed

Mayor (Mandaue City)
Comelec partial official as of 12noon, 5/14/04
252 of 763 precincts

Cortes, Ariston III C.	10,018
Ouano, Thadeo Z.	26,047

Mayor (Talisay City)
Fernandez, Socrates C.
proclaimed

Mayor (Toledo City)
Zambo, Arlene E.
proclaimed

NEGROS ORIENTAL

Comelec/ partial official as of 3:55 pm, 05/14/04

Governor

Arnaiz, George P.	301,315
Tayhon, Lorenzo R.	4,499

Congressman (District 1)
Paras, Jacinto V.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec/ partial official as of 3 55 pm, 05/14/04

Macias, Emilio II C.	87,678
Remollo, Orlando V.	28,492
Torres, Samuel B.	584
Aniñon, Raul S.	402

Congressman (District 3)
Comelec final as of 3:55 pm, 05/14/04

Teves, Herminio G.	67,291
Teves, Edgar Y.	41,979

Mayor (Bayawan City)
Serana, German Jr.
proclaimed

Mayor (Canlaon City)
Cardenas, Judith B.
proclaimed

Mayor (Dumaguete City)
Perdices, Agustin
proclaimed

Mayor (Tanjay City)
Salma, Baltazar
proclaimed

SIQUIJOR

Namfrel as of 11am, 05/13/04

Governor

Chan, Arthur	1,080
Fua, Orlando	23,554
Villa, Dean	23,380

Congressman

Chan, Joy Dominie	457
Flor, Jesus	14
Fua, Orlando Jr.	26,158
Olpoc, Epifanio Jr.	17,662

REGION 8

BILIRAN

Governor
Espina, Rogelio J.
proclaimed

Congressman
Espina, Gerardo, Jr. J.
proclaimed

EASTERN SAMAR

Namfrel as of 4 pm 05/14/04

Governor

Evardone, Ben P.	61,723
Salazar, Clotilde J.	40,040
Ambil, Ruperto, Jr. A.	19,599
Castillo, Jose P.	388

Congressman

Libanan, Marcelino C.	80,347
Ramirez, Jose T.	28,827
Montes, Roy S.	9,744

LEYTE

Comelec partial as of 10:10 am 05/14/04

Governor

Petilla, Carlos Jericho L.	232,380
Apostol, Sergio Antonio F.	189,193
Larrazabal, Adolfo E.	3,501
Pagayanan, Hermela P.	1,843
Sotto, Roberto C.	1,778

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec partial as of 05/13/04

Petilla, Remedios L.	54,890
Avila, Charlie	14,228

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec final as of 8:30 am 05/13/04
Apostol, Trinidad G.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 3)
Veloso, Eduardo K.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 4)
Codilla, Eufrocino, Sr. M.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 5)
Cari, Carmen
proclaimed

Mayor (Ormoc City)
Codilla, Eric C.
proclaimed

Mayor (Tacloban City)
Comelec final as of 6pm 05/14/04
Romualdez, Alfredo T.
proclaimed

NORTHERN SAMAR

Comelec partial official as of 9:30 am, 05/14/04

Governor

Daza, Raul A.	113,450
Balanquit, Sixto Jr. T.	37,477
Cabacang, Serafin Jr. C.	1,880
Morales, Teddy L.	920

Congressman (District 1)

Abayon, Harlin C.	68,386
Tagle, Pedrito D.	2,817
Ong, Nelson L.	981

Congressman (District 2)

Vicencio, Romualdo T.	49,219
Abalon, Don L.	33,850
Lobos, Pete S.	527

SAMAR

Namfrel as of 12 nn 05/14/04
840 of 916 precints

Governor

Tan, Milagrosa T.	56,039
Rono, Mario S.	43,162
Nacario, Melchor F.	4,045
Piczon, Claro B.	319
Llamado, Renato Z.	67

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 nn 05/14/04

Uy, Reynaldo S.	60,105
Tuazon, Rodolfo T.	56,186
Sabulao, Maria Clarina C.	65

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 10am 05/13/04

Figueroa, Catalino B.	14,795
Nachura, Antonio Eduardo B.	11,944
Raytos, Rodolfo O.	138

Mayor(Calbayog City)
Namfrel as of 12 nn 05/14/04

Sarmiento, Mel	28,853
Rosales, Virgilio Sr.	25,367
Jusayan, Gerardo	4,074

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Governor
Lerias, Rosette Y.
proclaimed

Congressman
Mercado, Roger G.
proclaimed

REGION 9

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

Congressman (District 2)
Cerilles, Antonio H.
proclaimed

Mayor (Zamboanga City)
Namfrel as of 2 40pm, 5/14/04

Lobregat, Celso L.	105,408
Wee, Dee Ping L.	63,873
Mariano, Charlie M.	45,927
Guardian, Alejandro G.	769
Angkaya, Abdusalam P.	421

REGION 10

BUKIDNON

Governor
Zubiri, Jose Ma., Jr. R.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec final as of 11:23 am 05/14/04

Pancrudo, Candido, Jr. P.	46,500
Acosta, JR Nereus O.	52,990
Onahon, Daniel S.	978

Congressman (District 3)
Zubiri, Juan Miguel F.
proclaimed

Mayor (Valencia City)
Comelec as of 12 a.m. 05/14/04
309 precincts

Galario, Jose, Jr. M.	24,665
Catarata, Leandro Jose H.	20,016

CAMIGUIN

Comelec as of 4pm, 5/13/04

Governor
Romualdo, Pedro P.
proclaimed

Congressman
Romualdo, Jesus Jurdin M.
proclaimed

LANAO DEL NORTE

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 11:05 a.m. 05/14/04

Badelles, Alipio Cirilo V.	81,423
Quijano, Thomas Dean M.	23,535
Jumao-as, Ferdinand V.	508
Baunto, Omar A.	161
Relova, Warlino M.	127
Siangco, Michael V.	28

Mayor (Iligan City)
Namfrel as of 11:05am, 5/14/04
767 of 815 precints

Cruz, Lawrence L.	61,201
Quijano, Franklin M.	36,900
Toling, Estrella L.	76

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

Comelec as of 12 a.m. 05/14/04

Governor

Ocampos, Loreto Leo S.	59,124
Bernardo, Connie L.	4,975
Ramayrat, Christopher S.	167

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 8 a.m. 05/14/04

Clarete, Ernie D.	50,426
Casing, Aresio O.	17,922
Talaboc, Editha P.	110

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12 a.m. 05/14/04

Ramiro, Herminia D.	34,374
Oaminal, Henry S.	14,687

Mayor (Oroquieta City)
Almonte, Jorge
proclaimed

Mayor (Ozamis City)

Parojinog, Reynaldo Sr. O	38,199
Fuentes, Benjamin A.	13,255

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Comelec as of 2 30 pm, 5/14/04

Governor
As of 2.30 pm 05/14/04

Moreno, Oscar S.	82,905
Calingin, Antonio P.	47,791
Aragon, Elizabeth C.	436
Calo, Vicente Jr. T.	306
Guillar, Richard R.	117
Caylo, Romeo Jr. E. slid to mayor	

Congressman (Cagayan de Oro City)
Namfrel as of 11 a.m. 05/14/04

Jaraula, Constantino G.	82,587
Damasing, Erasmo	55,872
Ravanera, Manuel R.	6,525
Jaudian, Manuel V.	3,659
De Jesus, Flordeliza E.	967
Aseñero, Rodolfo L.	276

Congressman (District I)
Comelec as of 12 pm 05/14/04

Lagbas, Danilo P.	14,620
De Jesus, Joaquin Miguel C.	11,194
Cezar, Homobono T.	1,634
Abarrientos, Jaime P.	1,089
Zagado, Rommel S.	120
Daleon, Roy C.	10

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12 pm 05/14/04

Baculio, Augusto H.	68,453
Jardin, Jesus C.	20,587
De Los Reyes, Rufino G.	491
Colance, Felix O.	283

Mayor (Cagayan de Oro City)
Namfrel as of 11 a.m. 05/14/04

Emano, Vicente Y.	105,286
Soriano, Antonio	52,409
Tamondong, Eddie U.	6,389
Borres, Felix Jr. F.	320
Lagrimas, Leodegario A.	195
Baygan, Herminigilda V.	130
Daleon, Jose Jr. N.	79

REGION 11

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

Governor
Caballero, Jose R.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04
Zamora, Manuel E.
proclaimed

Congessman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04
Amatong, Prospero S.
proclaimed

DAVAO DEL NORTE

Congressman (District 2)
Floirendo, Antonio Jr. R.
proclaimed

Mayor (Island Garden City of Samal)
Antalan, Rogelio
unopposed/proclaimed

DAVAO DEL SUR

Comelec results

Governor
Bautista, Benjamin Jr.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Cagas, Douglas
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Bautista, Claude
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1, Davao City)
Namfrel as of 11:45am, 5/13/04
3,213 precincts
Nograles, Prospero C.
unopposed

Congressman (District 2, Davao City)
Namfrel final as of 05/13/04

Garcia, Vincent DJ.	100,667
Lumain, Joselito G.	15,919
Badiles, Teofilo A.	2,340

Mayor (Davao City)
Namfrel final 05/13/04
3,213 precincts

Duterte, Rodrigo R.	286,394
De Guzman, Benjamin C.	145,432
Marcellones, Magdaleno Jr.	332
Pablico, Rudy C.	124
Satera, Henry S.	97

Mayor (Digos City)
as of 5/11/04
Latasa, Arsenio A.
unopposed

DAVAO ORIENTAL

Namfrel as of 4 pm 05/14/04

Governor

Palma Gil, Maria Elena T.	71,032
Almario, Thelma Z.	67,757

Congressman (District 1)
Malanyaon, Corazon N
unopposed

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 2pm, 5/14/04

Almario, Joel Mayo Z.	44,215
Rabat, Carlo Luis P.	39,236

REGION 12

NORTH COTABATO

Comelec as of 11:30 am May 14

Governor

Pinol, Emmanuel F.	208,893
Pelonio, Rolando Sr. M.	65,312
Fortines, Julito S.	987
Makalinlay, Garcia F.	430

Congressman (District 1)

Talino-Santos, Emmylyou J.	94,486
Dequina, Anthony P.	26,969

Congressman (District 2)
Ipong, Gregorio
unopposed

Mayor (Kidapawan City)
Gantuangco, Rodolfo Y.
Proclaimed

SARANGANI

Governor
Dominguez, Miguel Rene G.
proclaimed

Congressman
Chiongbian, Erwin L.
proclaimed

REGION 13

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

Governor
Amante, Erlpi
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Banaag, Leovigildo B.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12.30pm, 5/13/04
Amante, Angel
proclaimed

Mayor (Butuan City)
Namfrel as of 3.15pm, 5/13/04
599 precincts
Plaza, Democrito II D.
proclaimed

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

Namfrel as of 3.30pm, 5/11/04

Mayor (Surigao City)
Namfrel as of 3 30pm, 5/11/04
Casurra, Alfonso S.
proclaimed

SURIGAO DEL SUR

Comelec as of 12:30 pm, 5/13/04

Governor
Pimentel, Vicente, Jr. T.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 12 30 pm, 5/13/04
Pichay, Prospero, Jr. A.
proclaimed

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12 30 pm, 5/13/04
Falcon, Peter Paul Jed C.
proclaimed

ARMM

MAGUINDANAO

Comelec results

Congressman (District 2)
Datumanong, Simeon
proclaimed

CORRECTIONS

IN YESTERDAY'S provincial tabulations (Page A20), the Comelec tally in the congressional race in District 1 of Compostela Valley should have read: Manuel B. Zamora, 73,003; Raul B. Basañes, 17,399. The figures were inadvertently interchanged.

* * *

The Namfrel tally in the mayoral race in Davao City should have read: Rodrigo R. Duterte, 286,394; Benjamin C. de Guzman, 145,432. The figures were inadvertently interchanged.

* * *

In the gubernatorial race in Isabela, the tallies for candidates Faustino Dy Jr. and Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca were inadvertently interchanged. Padaca should have garnered 197,135 and Dy, 155,324. Also, the figures were supplied by Padaca's camp, not by Namfrel.

* * *

In the mayoral contest in Legazpi City, the Namfrel tabulation should have read: Noel E. Rosal, 43,417, Michael Victor C. Imperial 37,801. The figures were inadvertently interchanged.

When charisma collides with political reality

From page A1

lighted by the walkout after the Holy Week break of eight members of Poe's media bureau headed by Rodolfo Reyes, press secretary of then President Joseph Estrada. The walkout came at a crucial time: when President Macapagal-Arroyo was beginning to break away from a tie with Poe in the opinion surveys.

Out of the loop

According to a key staff member who asked not to be identified, Reyes' people quit because they felt "out of the loop." They felt they were not being considered part of the inner circle that put a wall around Poe.

Reyes' team was composed of the original group that helped Eduardo Cojuangco, head of the Nationalist People's Coalition. Poe's media bureau was hijacked by a group close to him, including Sen. Vicente Sotto III and former Sen. Tessie Oreta.

By the staff member's account, there were two parallel media groups—one led by Reyes and the other by the Sotto gang—each taking different, often contradictory, lines.

The Sotto group not only marginalized Reyes' team but also blocked its proposals to improve Poe's image.

For example, Reyes' team proposed a mock interview for Poe as a rehearsal for his presentation of his platform. The group prepared 100 questions in Filipino and English, including those dealing with difficult and even nasty issues, such as Poe's alleged extramarital relationships and his having a "love child."

The proposal never got past the Sotto cordon. Poe scheduled a mock exercise, but it never happened.

Aversion to the media

Poe seemed to have a "deep-seated aversion to the media," the staff member said. This aversion to preparation and to addressing issues was a disaster waiting to happen.

And it struck in March when Poe, at a presentation of his economic policy, said he would "look into the possibility" of restructuring the government's foreign and domestic debt as a step toward curtailing the burgeoning fiscal deficit.

The statement rattled the markets, which saw it as a signal for debt repudiation. This prompted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to state that the Philippines would honor its debts and that any restructuring "should be carefully studied."

Poe made the statement after he convened a group of 19 advisers, including economists, to write his economic platform.

There were two groups of advisers, each acting like a separate committee. "One group was meeting in the house of Oreta and the other, somewhere else. There was no centralized committee tying up the loose ends of the campaign," the staff member said.

What went wrong

Asked what went wrong with the Poe campaign, the staff member cited three things: weak campaign organization without a centralized manager; antagonistic relations with the media; and the administration's deployment of government resources on projects such as road maintenance, health cards, crop seeds, artesian wells and job-creating infrastructure projects including irrigation and roads.

The staff member said the campaign began to unravel swiftly after Poe refused to talk with the media, to explain his platform and to engage in a debate over issues.

Poe did not "realize the value of communication" and seemed "mesmerized by adoring crowds," but the people "wanted to know his platform," the staff member said.

His relations with the media turned from bad to worse when he began a running war with reporters covering his campaign, including TV reporter Sandra Aguinaldo whom he humiliated during a campaign rally.

Things came to breaking point when other reporters walked out on his campaign after his cordon made access to him difficult.

Sotto has said that the Poe campaign made sure that the reporters' food and accommodations were looked after. He failed to understand that what is more important to political reporters is easy access to sources.

A former actor, Sotto saw the political reporters' function in the context of reporters covering show biz personalities. Celebrity reporters do not ask hard questions.

Fundamental flaw

The fundamental flaw of Poe's campaign is that it was built on the assumption that his popularity alone would serve as an express train to the presidency.

He seemed to believe in the notion that his charisma-based campaign would lead him to a political coronation.

Poe owns a profitable movie production company in which he produces and directs his own films where he is the principal actor and hero.

In the world of film, Poe is never contradicted and is used to adulation by fans. The rough-and-tumble world of politics in a robust democracy is alien to him, and he is uncomfortable with it.

In his relations with the media, Poe broke a cardinal rule: that a politician should never antagonize reporters, who are the shock troops of free journalism.

He battled them while he was engaged in a bitter war—both with the administration that was using its resources of incumbency to counter his charisma, and with his opponents in the opposition, especially Sen. Panfilo Lacson's faction.

Natural constituency

Poe's camp ignored an important element of political reality, which not even political observers recognized.

His camp did not realize that Ms Macapagal had a natural constituency to fall back on. They forgot that she was elected vice president in 1998 with more votes than Estrada, and had topped a previous senatorial election.

It was to this constituency that Ms Macapagal repaired to to tap its support in her extensive grass-roots campaign, which covered more ground than the Poe campaign did.

Poe and his star-struck adherents believed that charisma alone could do it. When charisma collided with political reality, his deficiencies were exposed and the myth of his invincibility crumbled.

The crumbling of the myth came as a traumatic shock. This explains why Poe and his adherents continue to cling to the illusion.

TRIBUTE in song is rendered by PDI photographer Edwin Bacasmas (extreme left) for retiring Press Undersecretary Ching Suva (seated) during a farewell party at Kalayaan Hall in Malacañang. Other members of the Presidential Photographers Association are Bernard Testa, Reny Pampolina, Willy Perez, Rhoy Cobilla and Julius Reyes. *(Story on Page A6)* VAL HANDUMON

GMA widens call for reconciliation

From page A1

ing the people together behind an agenda of national unity and change."

Ms Macapagal first made the offer to one of her biggest critics, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who accepted.

But the President received what seemed like a polite rebuff elsewhere.

An impeccable source at the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa told the INQUIRER that Ms Macapagal this week contacted presidential candidate Raul Roco and his running mate, Herminio Aquino.

Aquino did not confirm or deny getting calls from Malacañang but admitted that there had been attempts by the Palace to seek the support of Roco.

He said it was possible that the President wanted Roco on her side should the camps of Poe and evangelist Eddie Villanueva join forces and challenge the results of the elections.

The Alyansa source said the first call from Malacañang was made Tuesday night through the intercession of Speaker Jose de Venecia's wife, Gina.

"She (Mrs. De Venecia) told Aquino that she will be willing to meet him anytime and anywhere," said the source. "Aquino then obliged."

The Speaker's wife and Aquino met at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday at the UCC coffee shop at The Fort in Taguig.

After exchanging pleasantries, Gina dialed Ms Macapagal's cellular number and handed the phone to Aquino.

"The President thanked him for his efforts to maintain an open line between the administration and Alyansa," said the source.

But when Ms Macapagal asked for categorical support from the Roco camp, Aquino told her: "Ma'am, I will just relay it to Raul."

The following day, the source said, Ms Macapagal personally called up Roco at his home in La Vista, Quezon City.

"They briefly talked, but Roco did not commit to anything," said the source.

'Too slow'

Aquino said Alyansa would not make any drastic moves at this point because "it is still anybody's game."

Roco criticized the canvassing of votes as "too slow."

"I think the people have (shown a) largely great disinterest (in the canvassing)," Roco said at a thanksgiving Mass the other night.

He said there was a prevailing sentiment among the people that Monday's electoral exercise was a "soiled process."

"That is not good because the moral ascendancy of leadership will be difficult to establish," said Roco.

Roco said that vote-buying on election day was "in a degree unequal in Philippine history."

"I think even in Manila, they had sample ballots with P1,000 (on it)," said Roco, who cautioned against staging protest rallies at this point.

"I don't want to say that," Roco said when asked if he would join anti-GMA rallies being planned by other opposition groups.

He said what was at stake at this point was the future of this country.

"Our challenge now is what to do for the country, what is the right thing to do for the country? We will have to study that. *Mabigat ang nangyayari ngayon* (What is happening now is grave). *Sabihin mo na hindi paniwalaan ang manalo* (Let's say the winner is not accepted), how do you lead? "

Roco said the tragedy with a victory soiled by massive fraud was that the people might not believe the winner.

Premature

Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) leaders yesterday said Lacson's "premature" acceptance of the President's offer of reconciliation bolstered suspicions that he may have struck a deal with the administration.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said that Lacson was presuming Ms Macapagal was already the winner.

"It's queer ... Why would a reasonable man come out and say that he's joining the government of reconciliation when only less than 10 percent of votes is finished?" Angara said.

Speaking to reporters, Angara wondered why Lacson would do such a thing "if he considers himself a genuine opposition (member)."

He said such a move by Lacson was not good for his image because "it bolsters the public suspicion [about him].

"That's why he doesn't want to merge and unite the opposition—that there is an arrangement and a deal struck between him and the administration."

Poe's personal campaign manager, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, shared Angara's opinion.

"If (Lacson) really said those things, then the suspicion that he was with GMA ... somewhere along the way ... is beginning to crystallize," Sotto said.

But Sotto later said that opposition leaders "still want to give (Lacson) the benefit of the doubt."

Asked to comment on Lacson's plan to resign from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Angara hinted that there was no need for him to do so.

He said Lacson had been "automatically dropped from the rolls" when he ran independently against party rules.

No capitulation

Lacson denied that he had capitulated to Malacañang.

"Let me put on record that I am not conceding at this point and that I am open to reconciliation to whoever will be declared the winner in the presidential elections," Lacson said.

As to allegations that his acceptance of Ms Macapagal's reconciliation offer was in exchange for certain concessions, Lacson told the INQUIRER: "They know me better. They know I couldn't be bought."

Top police officials expressed the hope unification between Ms Macapagal and Lacson would bring stability to the divided Philippine National Police.

If Lacson reconciled with the President, his estranged supporters in the PNP could be welcomed back into the mainstream, said Director Lucas Managuelod.

"This is a positive development," he told the INQUIRER.

Another Lacson ally, Supt. Francisco Villaroman, said unification should bring back professionalism in the national police. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra*

Now, Erap wants to go to a children's party

From page A1

wants to spend time with the boy.

It used to be a matter of course. But now Estrada has had to ask the Sandiganbayan for a temporary pass to spend today and tomorrow in his resort home in Tanay for a little family gathering.

In a motion signed by his court-appointed lawyer Noel Malaya, Estrada said it was the boy's wish, too.

"It will bring joy to the kid," Malaya told reporters before filing the motion with the anti-graft court yesterday afternoon.

What next?

Although the resort is just across from Camp Capinpin, where Estrada is in detention while being tried for plunder, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio balked at the request.

Less than two weeks ago, Estrada was granted a temporary pass for yet another special occasion, his mother's birthday. Before that, during Holy Week, he was allowed to stay three days at the resort, for a spiritual retreat.

What next? Villa-Ignacio demanded. "With his many children, he may have to visit the resort weekly to celebrate their birthdays."

The prosecutor exaggerates, but a senior Ombudsman official sees his point: "It will set a bad precedent. Next (Estrada) will ask to spend birthdays with the other children and their mothers."

17 weekends

That's about 17 weekends, for 10 acknowledged offspring and seven women.

Estrada, who is married to Sen. Loi Estrada, has admitted involvement with actresses Guia Gomez, Laarni Enriquez, Perla Bautista and Joy Melendres, as well as Peachy Osorio and former Philippine Airlines flight stewardess Rowena Lopez.

And he has at least nine grandchildren—which then adds up to half the number of weekends in a year.

Plus, Estrada did not always need to cite relatives in his many previous appeals to temporarily leave the detention center. Still awaiting decision, for instance, is his request to use the toilet and bath in his Tanay resort because, he said, the toilet in his Camp Capinpin quarters did not flush and the shower did not work.

No court order

Informed of Villa-Ignacio's remark, Malaya told the INQUIRER in a phone interview: "*Sana lang pagbigyan; bata naman 'yun* (We just hope the court would indulge the boy)."

Does he really need a court order? Since Estrada was moved to the Tanay camp last October, he has reportedly walked over to the resort on several occasions, with the permission, and under the protection, of his police escorts.

The Sandiganbayan has just thrown out the motion of Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. seeking the suspension of the ongoing indirect contempt proceedings against top police officials involved in this.

Ebdane and Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento, Estrada's chief custodian, are said to have allowed Estrada to wander out without court orders.

In a six-page resolution, a special division of the anti-graft court said it denied the motion "for lack of merit."

Exit poll shows 900,000 were denied right to vote

From page A1

the same survey that some 900,000 registered voters were unable to vote because they could not find their names or assigned voting precincts on the official rosters.

"In aggregate terms, SWS estimates that 36.5 million visited the polling places, of whom 2.5 percent or about 900,000 could not find their names, leaving 35.6 million able to vote," the polling group said in a statement.

SWS based its estimate on interviews of 5,675 registered voters, of whom 1,048 or 18 percent did not vote. Of those who did not vote, 116 said they could not find their names on the rosters.

Based on these figures, SWS reckoned that there were an estimated 900,000 disenfranchised voters nationwide.

Dropped names from voters' lists have served as a lightning rod for opposition protests. According to the Poe camp, many of the actor's supporters were disenfranchised.

The Macapagal administration has conceded there were shortcomings in preparations for the vote, including the drawing up of a computerized list of voters designed to weed out fraud.

SWS estimated the voter turnout at 81.8 percent of the 43.5 million registered voters. But Poe's camp estimates the actual turnout was much lower, suggesting that estimates of a high voter turnout by the Commission on Elections were being used to justify vote-padding in favor of Ms Macapagal.

Comelec estimates

For his part, Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra keeps changing his estimate of the voter turnout, fueling suspicions of poll fraud.

After the precincts closed on May 10, Borra estimated the turnout at 80-85 percent. The following day, he revised his estimate, saying the turnout may have been 72-80 percent.

Yesterday, Borra said about 8.5 million or 19.5 percent out of the 43.5 million registered voters were not able to cast their ballots. This would suggest a voter turnout of 80.5 percent.

Even so, Borra acknowledged that there was "a big number" of voters who were not able to cast their ballots.

"Does this mean we disenfranchised them? We would like to gather this," he said.

"We want the list of names of those claiming to have been disenfranchised ... This is more factual, rational, a more scientific approach ... If we have this list, we'll address this problem," Borra said.

In the same interview, Borra said that the Comelec had anticipated foul-ups in the voters' list. This was the reason, he said, that the Comelec directed election officers to incorporate the names of voters who validated their registration into the official list, which includes voters in the 1998 and 2001 elections.

Local election officers

The Comelec failed to finish on Jan. 23 its plan of creating a master list of voters and their respective precincts. This prompted the commission to return the voters' lists to the local election officers who had to do the encoding themselves—on top of their duty of handling inclusion and exclusion proceedings.

The voters' lists made by the local election officers were presented to the various political parties which, according to Borra, did not raise any protest.

Despite the fact that the May 10 voters' lists covered all those who took part in the 1998 and 2001 elections as well as those who validated their registration, however, many were still not able to vote.

Funding

Borra said the Comelec's operations were also hampered by the delayed release of funds.

He pointed out that the government had to realign P1.5 billion to finance the elections and the money was released only in the middle of March.

Earlier this year, the Comelec had to abandon its plan for an automated election and shift to the manual count when the Supreme Court junked the P1.3-billion automated counting machine deal.

Borra said preparations for manual elections would usually take six months. *Reports from AFP and Martin Marfil*

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METRO

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Losing SJ bet sold Porsche, Jaguar to fund campaign

By Volt Contreras

IT CAME as no surprise that the mayoral candidate fielded by the ruling Lakas party against the well-entrenched Estradas of San Juan trailed behind in the polls.

But apart from tasting imminent defeat in the elections, Enrico "Erick" San Juan has another reason to feel bitter.

San Juan confided to reporters yesterday how he was forced to sell two cars—a '88 Porsche 944 and an '86 Jaguar XJ6—to raise funds for his campaign.

This was because he merely received a fraction of the money the party promised him, he told journalists at the weekly Kapihan sa Rembrandt.Hotel forum in Quezon City.

Later in an INQUIRER interview, San Juan said he was also forced to drain the "trust funds" he was supposedly saving for his two children now studying in college.

A business consultant, book author, AM radio commentator, and a "political strategist" for candidates in past elections, San Juan said this was the first time he ran for public office upon the urgings of the Lakas party.

As of Thursday, unofficial quick-count results showed him trailing by about 24,000 votes behind the incumbent mayor JV Ejercito, son of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

Though declining to give figures, San Juan said the Lakas leadership committed to his campaign a sum big enough to pose a serious challenge to Ejercito's machinery and to deliver votes for President Macapagal especially from the slums of Erap country.

"But only less than 10 percent (of the promised amount) reached me. It was hard to strategize without funds," he said.

To augment his campaign kitty, he said, he sold the "old" Porsche and the Jaguar for P1.5 million. He added he inherited the Jaguar from his father.

"I had to use up even my children's savings that were held in time deposit. *Nasimot* (It was drained clean)," he said. "*Kawawa talaga ako*. I don't know what hit me."

All in all, his campaign had cost him "more or less P7 million," much of it from his own pocket and contributions from relatives and friends.

Asked why he was going public about his post-election gripes, San Juan said: "This is good lesson for us (media persons planning to run for office) not to trust traditional politicians."

Erick, 51, is a nephew of former Rizal congressman and Public Estates Authority chair Frisco San Juan.

A business consultant to multinational companies by profession, he has also authored a book on the Marcos wealth and the Ninoy Aquino assassination. He is working on a third book entitled "Puzzlers," a work on geopolitics.

EWAN KO NGA BA KUNG ANONG INIISIP KO NG MGA PANAHON NA 'YON !

Ipo settlers seen to contaminate water supply

By Tina Santos

INFORMAL settlers living near the Ipo watershed may cause the contamination of water supply there, according to an official of a water concessionaire.

Metro Manila households get water supply from the Ipo watershed through Angat Dam.

The Ipo Dam is also considered a "common purpose facility" of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) and the Manila Water Company Inc. (MWCI).

Frank Beaumont, chair of Common Purpose Facilities-Execom and official of the MWCI, said that security personnel manning the watershed area could no longer prevent the informal families from settling there.

Beaumont wrote this in a memorandum addressed to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System administrator Orlando Hondrade, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

The informal families were reportedly claiming that they have permission from and contracts with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Beaumont said.

"Our security personnel have been powerless to prevent their entry," Beaumont said, adding that they had acquired a copy of the DENR Administrative Order by which the contracts based their legality.

Beaumont said at least 47 persons, along with their families and helpers, have been granted by the DENR the right to live in the watershed.

"They've been permitted to plant fruit trees in denuded areas in our watershed," he said.

PINNED DOWN
Members of the Makati Rescue team try to pull out Susan Manalo after she was pinned down inside the taxi she was riding when it was hit by a private car at the corner of Ayala and Buendia Avenues on Thursday morning. Ms Manalo was rushed to a hospital for treatment of wounds. MARIA SULEIMAN

16 winning Metro bets proclaimed

SIXTEEN candidates in Metro Manila have already been proclaimed by the Commission on Elections.

On Thursday night, incumbent Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and Reps. Teodoro Locsin Jr. of the first district and Agapito Aquino of the second district were proclaimed by the city board of canvassers.

Incumbent Mayor Rosendo Capco was also proclaimed winner on Thursday night at the Pateros Municipal Hall.

Capco garnered 10,138 votes against closest contender Willie Buenaventura, who got 7,408.

In Marikina, Rep. Del de Guzman has been re-elected with the slimmest margin so far in Metro Manila—an amazing 172 votes over former congressman Romeo "Ome" Candazo.

Incumbent Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando easily won over Sonny Parsons, while Vice Mayor Marion Andres also got reelected.

It's virtually the same names and faces for Las Piñas residents, as the local elections drew to a close with the proclamation rites held at the Las Piñas City Hall yesterday afternoon.

The Commission of Elections City Board of Canvassers declared re-electionist Cynthia Aguilar-Villar as the duly elected representative of Las Piñas and Imelda T. Aguilar as the duly-elected mayor.

Aguilar is set to replace her husband, outgoing mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar, who had held the post for the past nine years.

Incumbent Vice Mayor Luis Bustamante was also proclaimed winner.

In Antipolo, the board of canvassers was scheduled to proclaim last night incumbent Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan as the winner, while it's Danilo Leyble as the duly-elected vice mayor.

Ronaldo Puno also won as representative for Antipolo's first district and Victor Sumulong for the second district.

In Navotas, incumbent Mayor Toby Tiangco was proclaimed also on Thursday night. This is his second term.

In Manila, the lone congressional candidate for the city's 3rd district, Liberal Party's Miles Roces, wants to be proclaimed as the winner.

The Commission on Elections had already disqualified Roces' rival, incumbent representative Harry Angping.

In Pasig City, the canvassing has already been finished but the board of canvassers could not yet proclaim the winner of the mayoral race.

Rep. Henry Lanot, who is trailing Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio in the race for the city's top post, has won another legal victory on the eve of canvassing.

The Comelec granted this week Lanot's petition to stop the proclamation of winners, documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed. *Margaux Ortiz, Luige del Puerto, Kate Pedroso, Tarra Quismundo, Charlie Tordesillas*

Valenzuela canvass starts 5 days after polls

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Cyril Bonabente

FIVE days after the elections, partial results of the canvassing in Valenzuela City have finally been released. Except for the highly contested mayoral race.

The reason: complaints about many election returns keep on coming from the camps of the three mayoral bets.

Despite the absence of any partial result, Rep. Magi Gunigundo told the INQUIRER yesterday he was confident he would win.

His closest rival Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian could not be reached through phone. In an earlier interview, he refused to comment when asked about the results of his camp's own quick count.

City Board of Canvassers chair Mohamad Hassan had explained they would not release partial results to avoid raising a furor among rival camps.

On Wednesday afternoon, the board released partial results from 175 of the 1,212 precincts. But these were for national candidates. Yesterday, partial results were also posted but only for the congressional race.

In Caloocan City, while mayor Rey Malonzo had contested the results of the congressional race which showed him trailing Oscar Malapitan in the first district, former Rep. Luis Baby Asistio had already hung streamers expressing thanks to his supporters in the second district for giving him the chance to "serve again."

Meanwhile, delays hit the canvassing of votes in Cainta, Rizal after lawyers from contending sides debated for hours about whether or not to include several election returns in the tabulation.

Lawyer Glenn Samson, counsel of Mayor Nicanor Felix, wanted the Board to rule on his petition which sought to exclude and include several election returns from the tabulation.

Felix, whose family has ruled Cainta for 58 years, appears losing to Mon Ilagan, unofficial counts have confirmed. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*

Woman runs amuck, hacks own baby dead

A WOMAN ran amuck inside their house in Quezon City on Thursday night and hacked her sleeping children and mother-in-law with a bolo, killing her two-month-old baby.

Police said the baby, Angel, was declared dead upon arrival in a hospital. Her sister, Mary Ann, and grandmother, Myrna Mendoza, sustained hack wounds and were being treated at a hospital.

Senior Supt. Procopio Lipana, chief of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit, said the amok, Maricar Mendoza, 25, was arrested and is now detained in Camp Karingal.

Investigation showed that the incident happened around 8:45 p.m. while the victims were asleep.

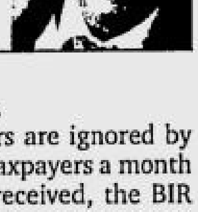
Screams soon filled the house as the suspect suddenly attacked the victims, one after the other, with the use of a bolo, Lipana said.

The suspect's two other daughters, Rosemen, 4, and Ronalyn Mae, 5, managed to run out of their house and sought the help of neighbors.

Ronald Mendoza, the suspect's husband was still out for work, police said. *Tina Santos and Mel Lawrence de Guzman*

Mr. Playboy at the BIR

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



A TOP official at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, whom I shall call Mr. Good-looking Playboy, is such a lecher he goes after married female subordinates.

According to BIR insiders, Mr. Good-looking Playboy . doesn't like single girls because he derives pleasure from conquering married women.

Mr. Good-looking Playboy has at least four women officials and employees at the BIR who are his paramours, said my sources.

* * *

I'm not in the business of exposing the dalliances of other men since I myself am not chaste.

But then I'm not a government official while Mr. Good-looking Playboy is.

Well and good if his monkey business would not encroach on his performance as a government official. But one day it might.

No wonder Mr. Good-looking Playboy goes around with plenty of bodyguards. They're not only meant to protect him from angry taxpayers being investigated by the BIR, but also from enraged husbands.

* * *

One of Mr. Good-looking Playboy's paramours is a member of his personal staff who, BIR insiders say, is his "baglady."

Ms Baglady handles all the "love" letters sent to delinquent taxpayers signed by Mr. Good-looking Playboy.

If those letters are ignored by the concerned taxpayers a month after they are received, the BIR tax fraud division investigates those taxpayers.

But most of the time, the concerned taxpayers, mostly big firms, settle their "obligation" with Ms Baglady.

* * *

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando is doing well ridding the sidewalks of illegal vendors and easing the traffic flow in major streets in the metropolis.

But his efforts are being negated by abusive MMDA staff from the sidewalk clearing operations office under Bobby Esquivel.

A bus conductor, Alexander Sy, was beaten up with truncheons by Esquivel's men when he couldn't immediately move his bus. Sy said he couldn't signal his driver to move the bus as alighting passengers might fall down.

I brought Sy to Esquivel so he could identify the MMDA men who sprained his right arm as a result of the truncheon beating.

But Esquivel would not want to bring out the photos of the men under him even upon orders from Chair Fernando.

Who is this guy that he could defy orders from higher-ups?

Mr. Fernando, before you can clean Metro Manila of vendors, clean up your house first.

* * *

Davao City mayoral candidate Benjamin de Guzman has given up in his fight with Rodrigo Duterte. But he said he was a victim of cheating and vote-buying.

Duterte shot back: "*Way utang nga kabubut-on kining si* De Guzman (De Guzman is an ingrate)."

In 1995, Duterte said, he plucked De Guzman from anonymity and had him run for vice mayor. De Guzman won.

In 1998, Duterte said he resigned three months before the election so De Guzman could take over as mayor. Duterte then ran for congressman, but said he had a gentleman's agreement with De Guzman that he would run again as mayor after he had served his term as congressman.

But De Guzman didn't honor his commitment. The fight between De Guzman and Duterte for the mayoral race in last Monday's election was a return bout.

Poor De Guzman. Duterte's lead over him is double what he got.

Kidnapped girl saved through 'Hotline 117'

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday urged the public to call Hotline 117 and report any crime and emergency for prompt action.

Lina's appeal came after the Philippine Coast Guard reported the rescue of a four-year-old girl who was abducted while on board a Panay-bound ship last May 12.

Lina said the rescue was done after a concerned individual called the police hotline.

"This incident is another proof of the on-going success of the Hotline 117 in foiling criminal activities," Lina said.

Lina, citing PCG records, said the victim, Diosa Kaye Bagadiong, a resident of Gumamela Extension, Valenzuela City, was forcibly taken from Marlyn Robita by Angelita Talidong for still unknown reason.

After receiving the call about the abduction, the hotline operator immediately relayed the information to the Coast Guard.

Coast Guard operatives boarded and searched the ship, MV Romblon Bay, which is docked at the Manila South Harbor and found the victim. The suspect was also nabbed. *Nelson Flores*

METROBRIEFS

587 cops promoted

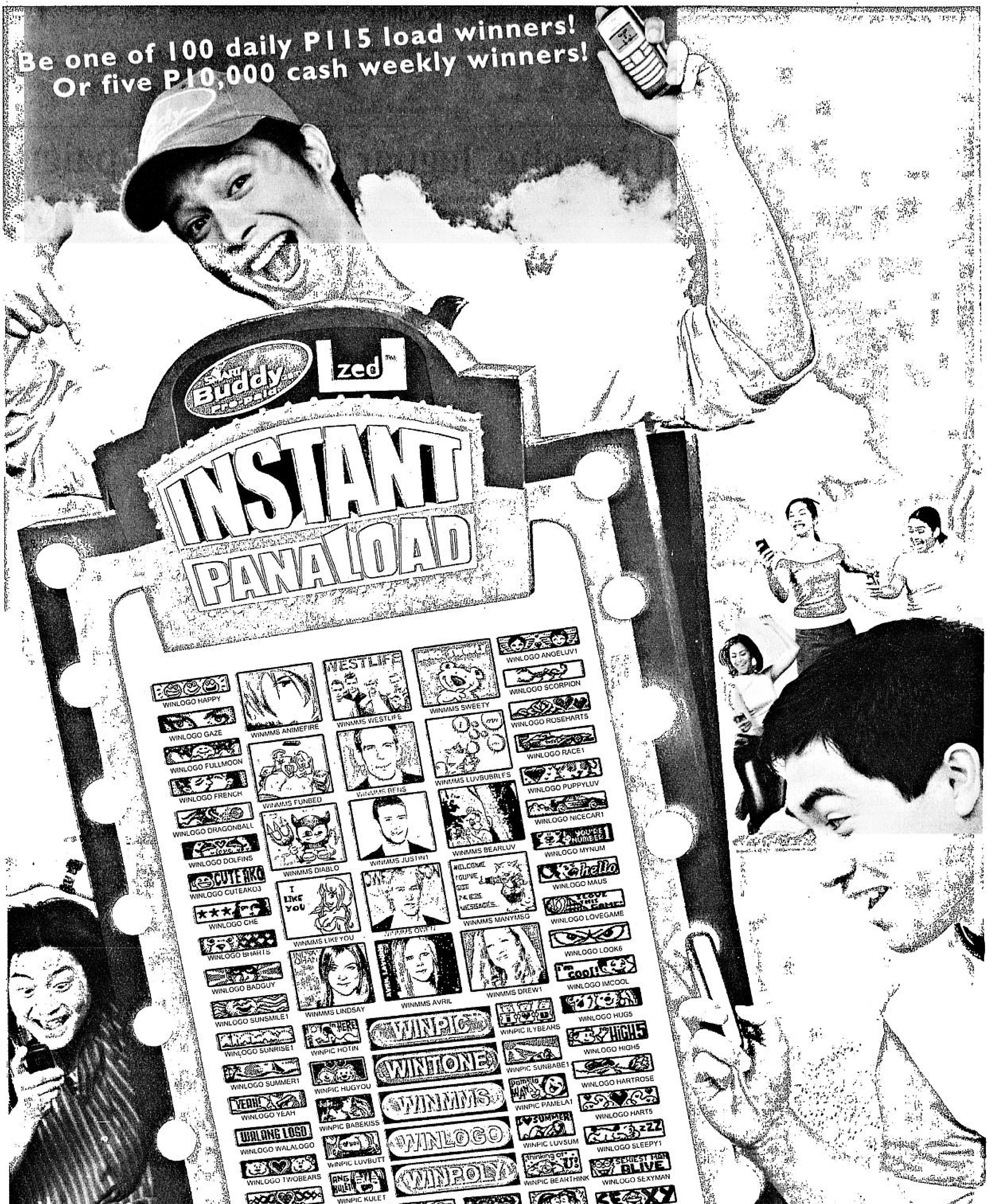
THREE years after the May 1 uprising led by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada, the National Police Commission has approved the special promotion of 587 more police officers involved in suppressing the riot. Napolcom Officer-In-Charge Commissioner Linda Malenab-Hornilla yesterday said that they have approved the special promotion of the additional policemen last May 3, bringing to 2,005 the total of Philippine National Police members promoted for suppressing the uprising. Hornilla said around 2,000 more police officers recommended for promotion are now being routed ad referendum for signature by the Napolcom Commissioners. *Margaux Ortiz*

Boy shot dead

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy was allegedly shot dead by a security guard while picking fruits from a mango tree with friends in a vacant lot in Quezon City on Thursday night. Police identified the fatality as Jacky Falcone, of Escopa 4, Baragay Escopa , Libis. The suspect, Eusebio Tolentino, 54, was arrested and is currently detained at the CPD-CIU in Camp Karingal. Initial investigation revealed that Falcone and six other friends were picking mangoes from the vacant lot on the corner of Katipunan Avenue and Aurora Boulevard around 1:30 p.m. when Tolentino, who was manning the property, appeared and angrily ordered the children to leave. When the boys did not heed his call, he got his 12-gauge shotgun and fired, hitting Falcone. *Tina Santos, Mel Lawrence de Guzman*

Ulama conference

A TOTAL of 100 ulama and women leaders will meet tomorrow to discuss a national fatwah, or religious edict, that promotes family planning in accordance with teachings of the Qur'an. The fatwah is the product of long consultations among members of the Darul-Ifta, or House of Islamic Opinion, with Muslim religious leaders in Mindanao. The meeting will be held at the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at the UP Diliman campus.


Be one of 100 daily P115 load winners!
Or five P10,000 cash weekly winners!
Buddy
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INSTANT
PANALOAD
WINLOGO HAPPY
WINLOGO GAZE
WINLOGO FULLMOON
WINLOGO FRENCH
WINLOGO DRAGONBALL
WINLOGO DOLFINS
WINLOGO CUTEAKO3
WINLOGO CHE
WINLOGO BHARTS
WINLOGO BADGUY
WINLOGO SUNSMILE1
WINLOGO SUNRISE1
WINLOGO SUMMER1
WINLOGO YEAH
WINLOGO WALALOGO
WINLOGO TWOBEARS
WINLOGO TWIRLS
WINLOGO TRIBAL6
WINLOGO TEDDIES1
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WINMMS FUNBED
WINMMS DIABLO
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WINPIC LUVBUTT
WINPIC KULET
WINPIC KISSME6
WINLOGO SWANGEL
WINMMS WESTLIFE
WINMMS BENS
WINMMS JUSTIN1
WINMMS OWEN
WINMMS AVRIL
WINPIC
WINTONE
WINMMS
WINLOGO
WINPOLY
WINPIC CUTECAT3
WINMMS SWEETY
WINMMS LUVBUBBLES
WINMMS BEARLUV
WINMMS MANYMSG
WINMMS DREW1
WINPIC ILYBEARS
WINPIC SUNBABE1
WINPIC PAMELA1
WINPIC LUVSUM
WINPIC BEARTHINK
WINPIC STARGAZE1
WINLOGO SEXYBABY
WINPIC HOTKISS
WINLOGO ANGELUV1
WINLOGO SCORPION
WINLOGO ROSEHARTS
WINLOGO RACE1
WINLOGO PUPPYLUV
WINLOGO NICECAR1
WINLOGO MYNUM
WINLOGO MAUS
WINLOGO LOVEGAME
WINLOGO LOOK6
WINLOGO IMCOOL
WINLOGO HUG5
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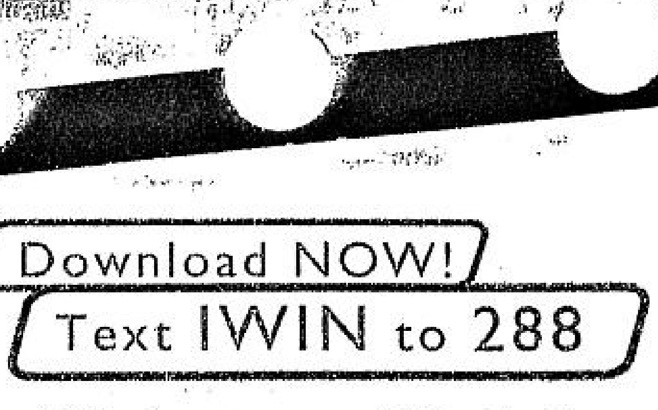

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Friday I'm In Love	The Cure	WINTONE FRIDAYIM	WINPOLY FRIDAYIM
Buffalo Soldier	Bob Marley	WINTONE BUFFALO	WINPOLY BUFFALO
I Want You	Thalia & Fat Joe	WINTONE IWANTU	WINPOLY IWANTU
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Fallen	Mya	WINTONE FALLEN2	WINPOLY FALLEN2
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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: 2004 NBA Playoffs - Nets vs Pistons, Game 5, Eastern Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports; Kings vs Timberwolves, Game 5, Western Semifinals; 10:30 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.); ESPN - Detroit hosts New Jersey in the east while Sacramento travels to Minnesota over in the west.

NBA Greatest Game - Pistons vs. Celtics, Game 7, 1987 Eastern Conference Finals; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports - With the stage set for Game 7, Larry Bird and Boston hold off relentless Detroit, 117-114, to advance to the NBA Finals.

BADMINTON: Thomas and Uber Cup: 8 p.m.; ESPN - Catch the finals of the most popular international badminton tournament in Jakarta.

Team Pacquiao lawyer files protest in Nevada

DENIED a win because of erroneous scoring, Team Manny Pacquiao has sought the intervention of the Nevada Athletic Commission in correcting the error and declaring the Filipino winner of his title bout against Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico in Las Vegas Saturday.

Murad Muhammad of M&M Sports Inc., the American promoter of Pacquiao, announced the other night that his lawyer, Lamont Jones, had officially protested the result of the fight that was declared a draw in a letter sent last Tuesday to NAC executive director Mark Ratner and Kirk D. Hendrick, chief deputy attorney general and counsel to the NAC .

Murad was with Pacquiao and business manager Rod Nazario when he disclosed this new development in Team Pacquiao's determined bid to seek post-fight redemption during an appreciation dinner for the media.

The 25-year-old Pacquiao, who arrived with wife Jingkee and his two sons, again thanked his supporters after expressing disappointment at the draw verdict that, he said, made him cry at the dressing room after the fight.

PACQUIAO

Murad said he was not surprised that Marquez is avoiding a rematch with the Filipino considering the punishment he took from the southpaw Pacquiao, who knocked him down three times in the first round.

Marquez went on to keep his WBA and IBF featherweight titles with the draw because, as Pacquiao explained, he fought with a hurting left fist from the second round and later lost his balance and attacking form because of a blistered right toe caused by a "99 cents sock."

In his letter, Murad's lawyer asked the Commission "to correct an admitted error based on one judge's misinterpretation of Nevada's scoring rules and customs."

Jones also pointed out that the judge, Burt Clements, had also asked the Commission to correct the error. He added that Clements failed to score the first round 10-6 for Pacquiao "based on his erroneous understanding that such a score is not permitted."

With his score of 10-7, he came up with a 113-113 verdict overall that led to a split draw decision. Had he tallied it at 10-6, the final outcome would have been 113-112 for Pacquiao and a split decision victory.

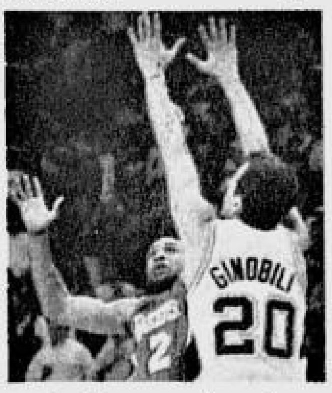
Jones said Clements' error was also the Commission's error because the NAC failed "to ensure that a Nevada judge in a high-profile World Championship bout was fully familiar with all the Commission's rules and regulations."

The protest cited subsection 2 of Rule 467.770 of the NAC rules that empowers the Commission to correct errors where "the compilation of the scorecards of the judges discloses an error which shows the decision was given to the wrong unarmed combatant. . ."

The particular rule, Jones said, allows the Commission to correct such errors even after the official decision has been rendered.

While it seems unlikely the WBA and IBF would agree to changing the split draw verdict and declare Pacquiao the winner, an observer said the Commission, upholding the protest of M&M, could order a rematch with a threat of Marquez losing his title if he refuses. *Ernesto A. Gonzales*

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ **Woods a shot off Lonard, Lewis** /A32
■ **$2,500 grant for Filipino Olympians** /A27
■ **Lakers steal Game 5** /A26

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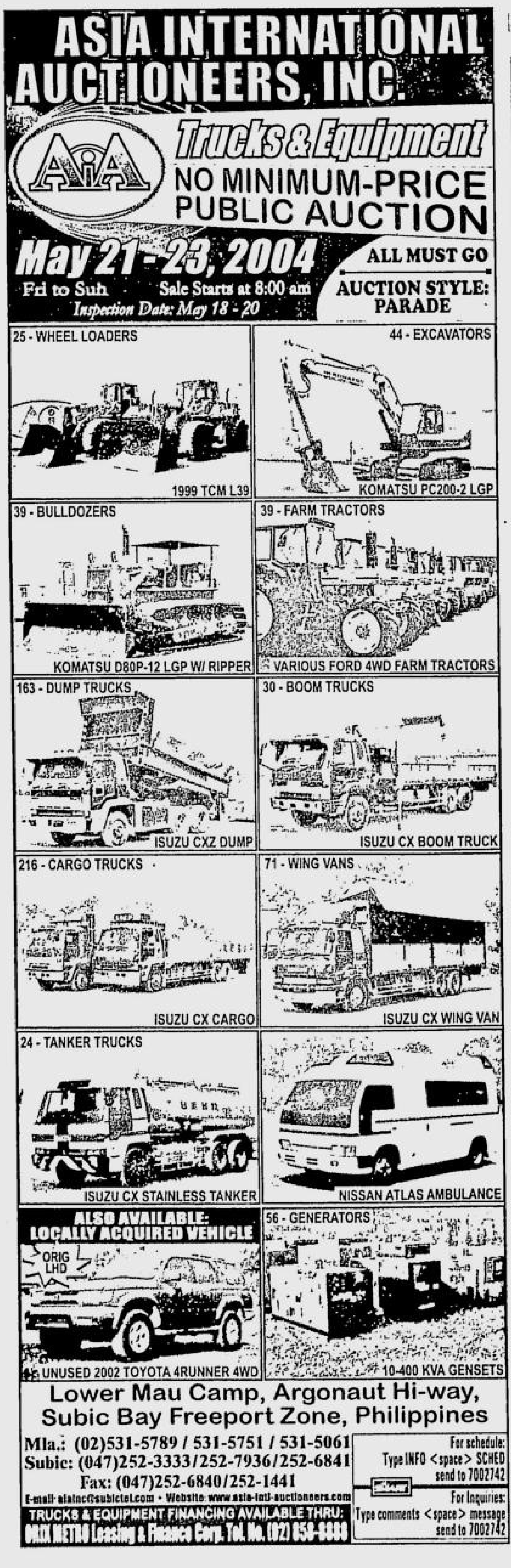
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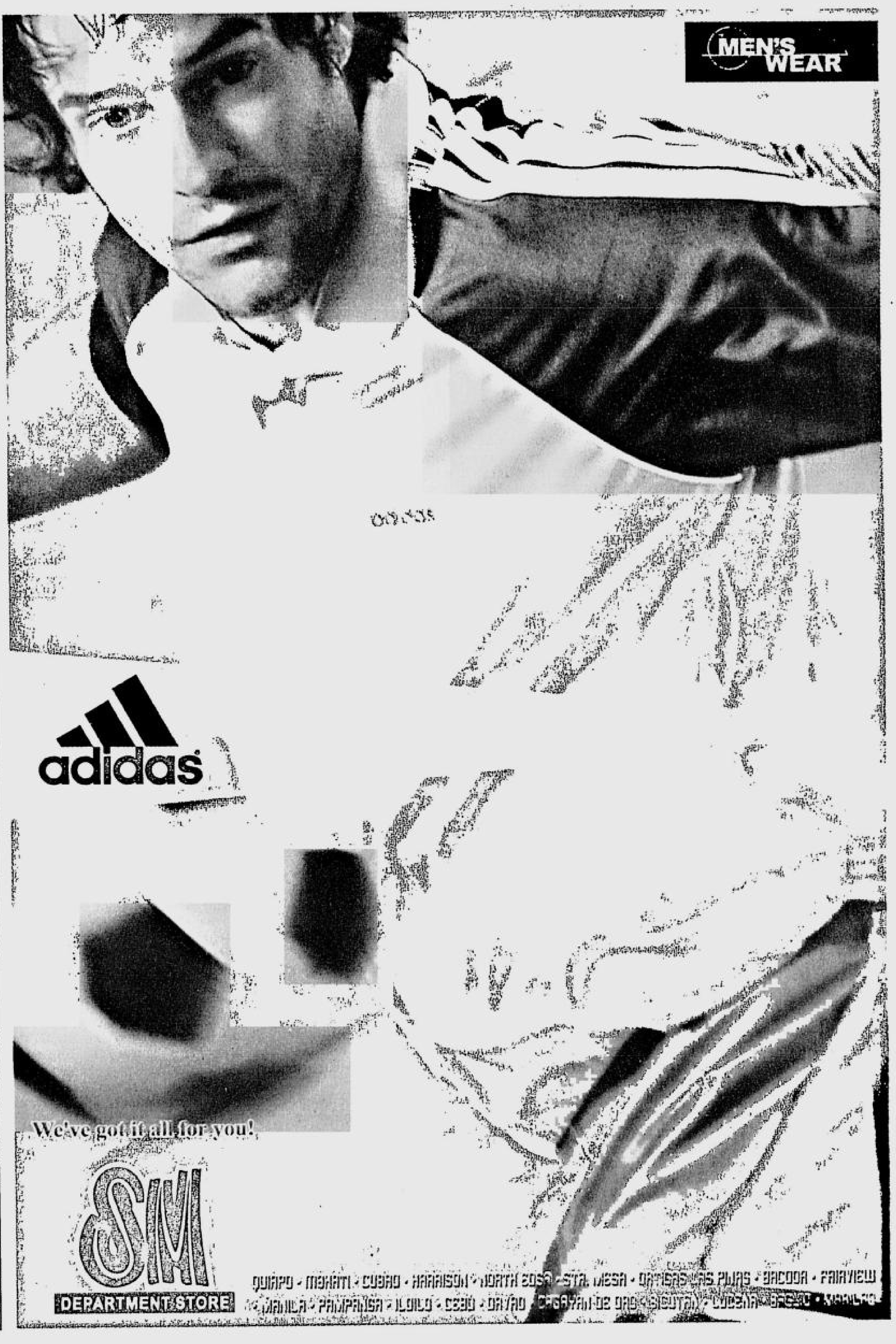

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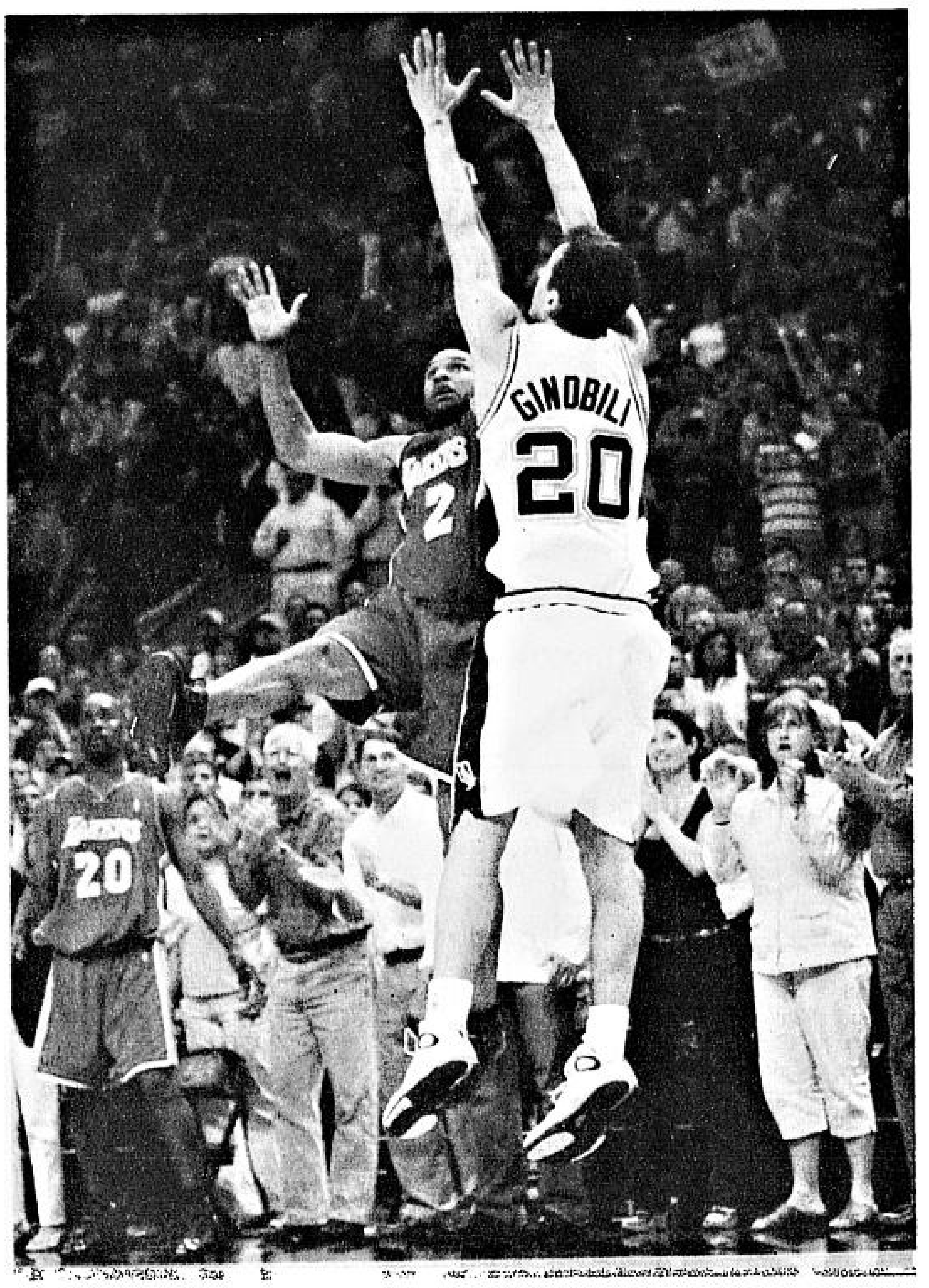
Lakers steal game on Fisher jumper



FISHER (left) shoots and makes the game-winning shot at the buzzer over Ginobili. AFP

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—San Antonio's Tim Duncan made an impossible shot, but Derek Fisher answered for the Los Angeles Lakers with an improbable one.

Fisher's remarkable fadeaway jumper at the buzzer gave Los Angeles a 74-73 victory over the Spurs that may have tilted the National Basketball Association's balance of power back in the Lakers' favor.

In a highly anticipated showdown of the teams that have won the last five NBA titles, the Lakers stole the pivotal fifth game of the Western Conference semifinals, taking a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

They are one win from securing the series and dethroning the Spurs, who did the same to them a year ago.

However, the Lakers seemed light years from doing that after Duncan made perhaps the greatest shot of his stellar career—a fadeaway 18-footer off the dribble over Shaquille O'Neal with four-tenths of a second left that gave the Spurs a 73-72 lead and threw the SBC Center into bedlam.

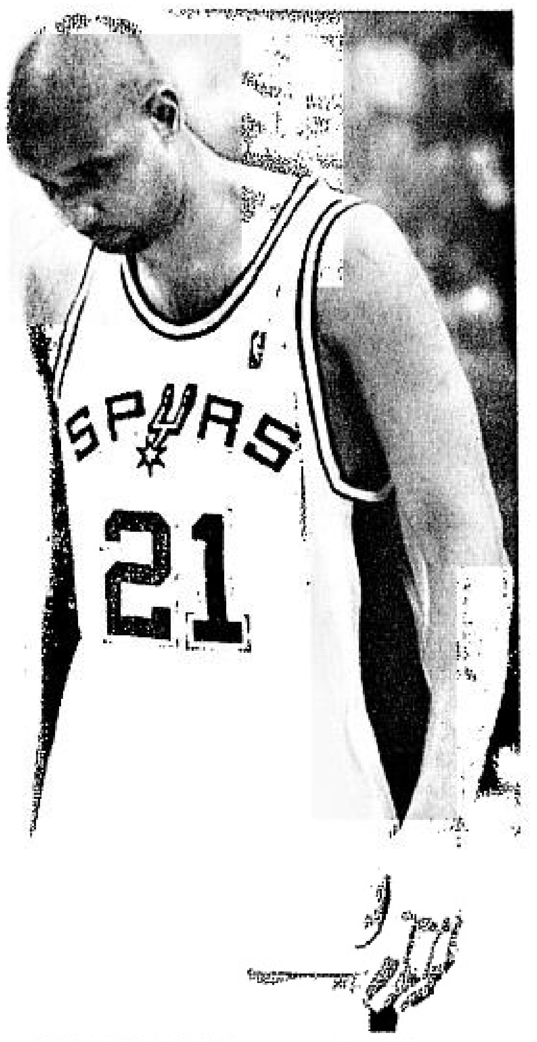
"I couldn't believe it went in," Duncan said. "They played the dribble handoff great. I let it go as high as I could, knowing that Shaq was there."

Through a series of false starts and timeouts, the Spurs were blanketing superstars O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. Gary Payton was forced to inbound to Fisher, who came to the pass and in one motion turned and fired a jumper just before the buzzer over Manu Ginobili that splashed through, stunning the Spurs and their fans into silence.

"Unfortunate, incredible," Duncan said. "There's not much you can say about it." "You dream about that growing up," said Fisher, who said he believed the Lakers had time to get one final shot off with four-tenths left but admitted: "I had no idea the guy taking it would be me." "One lucky shot deserves another," O'Neal said.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich called it "the cruelest loss I've ever been involved with." He also said he believed officials started the clock late, giving Fisher extra time to shoot, and the team planned to lodge a protest.

The Lakers will have a chance to close out the series at home Saturday. *AFP*



A FRUSTRATED Duncan walks off the court after the heartbreaking loss. REUTERS

HAMBURG MASTERS

Federer-Moya blockbuster q'final

HAMBURG, Germany—World No. 1 Roger Federer isn't fazed by having to face Carlos Moya in a mouthwatering quarterfinal at the Hamburg Masters on Friday.

Federer holds a 3-0 record against Moya, but it'll be the first time they've met on clay. The No. 8-ranked Spaniard has won nine straight matches, including last week's Italian Open, and is an ATP-best 24-4 on dirt this season.

"It doesn't matter whom I will play on clay. As long as my level is all right," Federer said. "I consider myself to be a clay-court specialist as well, otherwise I wouldn't have won tournaments like Munich and Hamburg and the finals in Rome and the Davis Cup matches. I know how good I am."

Federer won Hamburg in 2002, and beat 13th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, 7-5, 6-1, in the third round on Thursday.

Moya endured a tougher test against countryman Fernando Verdasco, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, to set up his showdown with Federer.

"I know it's on clay, but he won here two years ago which I never did," Moya said.

In the other quarterfinals, defending champion Guillermo Coria of Argentina plays David Ferrer of Spain, 17th-seeded Lleyton Hewitt meets the surprising Juergen Melzer of Austria, and Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia tackles Mikhail Youzhny of Russia.

Second-seeded Coria beat Tommy Robredo of Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4, and extended his winning streak on clay to 29—which includes two wins over Ferrer—since the semifinals of the 2003 French Open. *AP*

FEDERER celebrates his victory. REUTERS

SPORTSWATCH

Stoudemire to be invited to US squad

NEW YORK—Amare Stoudemire of the Phoenix Suns will be invited to play for the US Olympic men's basketball team, becoming the latest addition to a constantly changing and younger roster, two USA Basketball sources said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that Stoudemire, the NBA Rookie of the Year in 2002-03, will be asked to play in Athens. The decision to invite Stoudemire was first reported by ESPN.com. The 21-year-old joins LeBron James, Stephon Marbury and Shawn Marion as the newest additions to an American team that will be without many of the top players originally selected or invited. Kenyon Martin of the New Jersey Nets told reporters on Wednesday that he would not be willing to accept an invitation, citing a lingering knee injury and his unsettled contract status as an upcoming restricted free agent. *AP*

Patrimonio gains age-group finals

THIRD seed Christine Patrimonio barged into the girls' 14-under finals after posting a 6-0, 6-0 victory over fifth seed Juzenne Mendoza yesterday in the Philta Classic 3 Age-Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Christine, one of three tennis-playing children of Purefoods cager Alvin, will meet second seed Zhane Quitara, who struggled past fourth seed Jecille Ortellano, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Playing in the girls' 12-under finals were third seed Regina Santiago, who eliminated top seed Sarah Jane Lim, 6-4, 6-4, and fourth seed Sally Mae Siso, who ousted second seed Joan Therese Opulencia, 6-1, 6-3. Siso survived second seed Tim Polero, 3-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Plaridel Tennis Club prevails

INQUIRER's Joseph Cagara partnered Noel Alba to victory as Plaridel Tennis Club blasted Baliuag in the 35-year-old men's doubles category of the recent Bulacan Inter-town tennis tournament in Malolos City. The victory of Cagara, a former nationally ranked junior player, and Alba was one of the three titles won by Plaridel in this widely attended event featuring Bulacan's top netters. Cagara and Alba won 3 of 6 events with a 10-3 win over Pulilan in the Men's Open division. Pat Reyes and Baby Rivera completed Team Plaridel's victory with a 10-3 romp over Hagonoy in the 50-year above category.

New team for Holyfield

FAIRBURN, Georgia—Relaxing in a brown leather chair in his palatial suburban Atlanta mansion, Evander Holyfield is within arm's reach of a book about the man who defined the sport of boxing in Holyfield's youth.

The image of Muhammad Ali on the cover of "Glory," prominently displayed on an easel, commands attention even in the expansive dimensions of Holyfield's office.

Ali looks tired and slightly pained as he holds his head in his hands. Holyfield, the only man to win the heavyweight title four times, appears similarly drained as he explains why he is optimistic about his boxing future when so many say it's time for the 41-year-old fighter to retire.

"I want them to know the most important thing is I have to do what I believe I should do," Holyfield said. "That's the point of being a man. You live through the decision you think will work for you. You've got to go out on what you believe."

He has won only two of his last eight fights, and isn't listed as a top contender in three major rankings. Only the WBA lists Holyfield highly at No. 12. *AP*

Diaz captures lightweight title

SAN DIEGO, California—Mexican-American Julio Diaz captured the International Boxing Federation lightweight title on Thursday with a 12-round majority decision over Mexico's Javier Juaregui.

Diaz outboxed Juaregui, although the champion did land some solid shots in the latter stages. Two judges scored it 118-110 for Diaz, while the third called it 114-114.

Journeyman Juaregui had captured the title by stopping American Levander Johnson. *AFP*

Draws

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DRAWS normally happen only in chess. That's because a draw in chess matters much: It gives both protagonists half a point each. In chess, only a defeat warrants a zero to the loser, with the winner earning a big one point.

Thus, virtually in all other sports, there's no such thing as a draw.

In tennis, a tied match is broken by a tiebreak.

In golf, a tie is broken by a sudden-death playoff.

In basketball, a tied score after the regulation period is broken by a five-minute extension. If the game is still tied after that, another five minutes is used to break the tie—and so on and so forth.

Rarely do we have a dead-heat in races: car racing, horse racing, cycling marathons, running events, even swimming. Usually, in these sports, we see a "victory by a nose." The dead-heat result is as seldom as a lunar eclipse. If it happens at all, both protagonists each win a gold medal.

In boxing, the draw is the most dreaded of all results. That's as far as the challenger is concerned because he loses the fight outright.

A draw in boxing is not broken by the addition of more rounds; the fight simply ends there and it allows the defending champion to retain his crown.

Sometimes, the challenger feels better if he sees himself the loser rather than get a draw when all indications point to him as the winner.

I cite here once more the case of Manny Pacquiao, who was the winner over defending champion Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico last Sunday not only by Pacquiao's own honest estimation but also in the eyes of a public steeped in the laws and ways of boxing. But as fate would have it, Pacquiao only earned a draw after 12 rounds, the verdict immediately eliciting a howl of protests.

Draws are the most unexpected results in boxing. That's why each time a draw is announced, you will most likely hear boos from the crowd, as in Pacquiao's last fight. Always, the crowd smells something fishy seeing a fight end in a draw.

Draws are more of a bane than boon to boxing. The crowds in boxing are intelligent and know a fake verdict when they hear one, see one, such as a draw.

I am still amazed why, despite the invention of the laptop and cell phone, draws are still allowed in boxing.

You see, the referee is empowered to order both boxers to slug it out if he sees, feels, that both fighters are not slugging it out as required by the rules of the sport. This more or less assures you of a fight not ending in a draw. The referee can even declare a no-contest if he feels that both fighters are not giving enough of their best shots.

Now if referees have such power, why not also clothe the three fight judges with the same power? In short, why not make it mandatory for each judge to declare one boxer winner of every round? In short, eliminate the rule of scoring a round a draw so that if the fight lasts the distance, the fight will have a sure winner on points.

People watch fights to enjoy. The climax of the show is to see, know, the winner. A draw destroys everything.

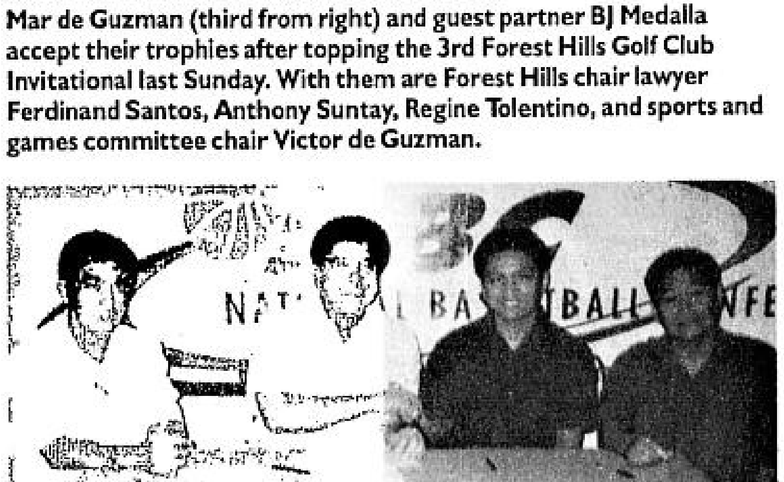
When the Pacquiao-Marquez fight was declared a draw, many were disappointed. In the place where I watched the fight on TV—after having survived the ugly barrage of commercials that stretched the fight to a six-hour torture—the crowd I was with hollered in anger after hearing the draw verdict. Many of them, piqued endlessly by the result, tried to defy the liquor ban (it was the day before election day) and searched for beer or gin in the neighborhood store.

Before Sunday's dismal draw result, there had been many controversial draws that somehow tainted the image of boxing: Lewis-Holyfied in 1999 and Whitaker-Chavez in 1993 were just two disappointing draws that further smeared the sanctity of the sport.

Sunday's controversial fight in Las Vegas will no doubt join the immortal list of boxing larcenies.

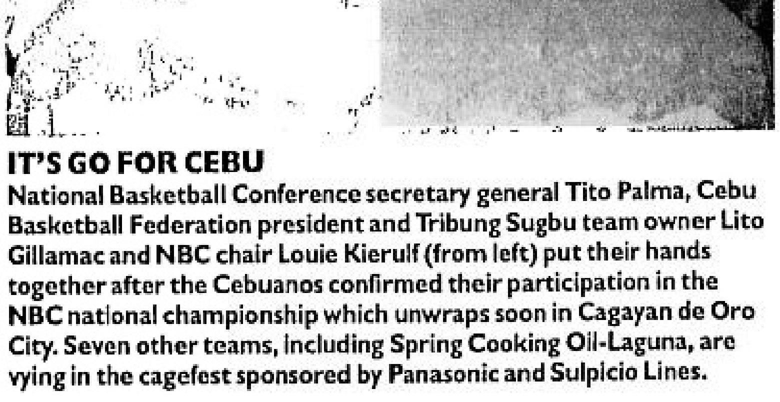
To appease Pacquiao, give him a rematch. The public, too, will love to see that happen. This can be done through the political will of both the IBF and WBA. Otherwise, without a rematch, boxing will continue to remain burdened with its dubious tag as—in the words of Jimmy Cannon—the red light district of sports.

It's a deadweight that's been there for decades.



FOREST INVITATIONAL WINNERS

Mar de Guzman (third from right) and guest partner BJ Medalla accept their trophies after topping the 3rd Forest Hills Golf Club Invitational last Sunday. With them are Forest Hills chair lawyer Ferdinand Santos, Anthony Suntay, Regine Tolentino, and sports and games committee chair Victor de Guzman.



IT'S GO FOR CEBU

National Basketball Conference secretary general Tito Palma, Cebu Basketball Federation president and Tribung Sugbu team owner Lito Gillamac and NBC chair Louie Kierulf (from left) put their hands together after the Cebuanos confirmed their participation in the NBC national championship which unwraps soon in Cagayan de Oro City. Seven other teams, including Spring Cooking Oil-Laguna, are vying in the cagefest sponsored by Panasonic and Sulpicio Lines.

RP Olympians to receive $2,500 grant

DAYRIT

FILIPINO athletes who qualified in the Athens Olympics will get additional training expenses of $2,500 each from the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Olympic Solidarity.

"The amount may not be big, but it will definitely help our athletes prepare for the Athens Olympics," POC president Celso L. Dayrit said yesterday.

Those who will receive the scholarship grants are swimmers Miguel Mendoza and Miguel Molina, archer Jasmin Figueroa, track and field stars Eduardo Buenavista and Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito, boxers Violito Payla, Christopher Camat, Romeo Brin and Harry Tañamor, trap shooter Jethro Dionisio and taekwondo jins Donald Geisler III, Tshomlee Go and Mary Antionette Rivero.

The athletes will receive the financial assistance through their respective National Sports Associations (NSA).

According to Dayrit, the limited scholarship program was developed by the Olympic Solidarity to help various NOCs from five continents.

Although not all scholarship-holders participated in the games, the results were significantly positive as seen in Atlanta in 1996 when 18 of 200 athletes won Olympic medals and in Sydney in 2000 when 61 of 470 scholars bagged 70 medals.

Seventeen Asian NOCs received grants in 1996 while 19 NOCs were benefited in 2000.

Shooter George Earnshaw, archer Jennifer Chan and wrestler Melchor Tumasis were the first three Filipino recipients of the grant.

Montaña, Blustar face varsity teams

STANDINGS	W	L
Viva	8	1
Welcoat	6	3
Sunkist-UST	4	5
Hapee	4	5
Montana	4	5
Blustar	4	5
Lee Pipes-Ateneo	3	6
Toyota-Letran	3	6

GAMES TODAY (Letran gym)
2 p.m. — Montana vs. Lee Pipes-Ateneo
4 p.m.— Toyota-Letran vs. Blustar

By Trina Ibarle

MONTAÑA and Blustar clash against separate collegiate foes at the Letran gym today, looking to move a step closer toward a twice-to-beat privilege in the first round of the PBL Unity Cup quarterfinals.

The Jewels battle Lee Pipes-Ateneo at 2 p.m., while the Detergent Kings square off with Toyota-Letran at 4 p.m., seeking wins that would give them at least ties for seats in the upper half of the draw.

As things stand, both Montaña and Blustar are tied for third spot with idle Sunkist-UST and defending champion Hapee with 4-5 cards. Viva (8-1) and Welcoat (6-3) are the only teams assured of stints in the semifinals.

Tournament format calls for the Nos. 3 and 4 teams to beat Nos. 5 and 6 only once to march on to the Final Four, and losses today could even derail Montaña and Blustar from advancing.

Wins, however, would give them 5-5 records, something either the Teeth Sparklers or the Tigers would have after they clash on Tuesday while ousting the Eagles and the Knights from further contention.

Should the Eagles and the Knights prevail on the other hand, it would create a five-team logjam for the top two spots after the elims among all of the teams seeing action today and the winner of the Hapee-Sunkist match.

The Knights will be coming into the game with a four-game losing streak. But home court edge could help them in fashioning out a repeat of their 77-68 victory over Blustar on April 13.

Antonio, players file complaint vs NCFP

GRANDMASTER Joey Antonio led a group of players and arbiters in filing a complaint at the National Bureau of Investigation on Thursday against the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) for alleged falsification of documents.

Named in the complaint were NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo and former executive director Gene Poliarco.

Estimo and Poliarco allegedly falsified the NCFP liquidation report submitted to the Philippine Sports Commission, which stated that P1,128,000 in assistance was given to the NCFP in 2002.

In the report dated Aug. 28, 2002, members of the national team that competed in the 2002 World Class Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, reportedly got P90,000 as training allowance for the event, with their respective signatures contained in the document.

However, Antonio, fellow GM Bong Villamayor, International Master Nelson Mariano II and Woman Fide Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao, who all competed in the Bled event, filed affidavits, stating they did not receive a single centavo of the allowance.

Antonio and Villamayor also swore that the signatures in the liquidation report were not theirs.

Joining Antonio at the NBI were Mariano, international arbiter Rolando Yutuc and national arbiters Roberto "Bobby" Bautista and Joey Moseros.

Yutuc, Bautista and Moseros were also named in the liquidation report submitted by the NCFP in which it stated P170,000 of the PSC assistance went to honorarium for their services as technical staff in the National Chess Championship held March 18 to May 6 of the same year.

Bautista, who issued the sworn statement on behalf of the group, said he only received P10,000 from the NCFP, P5,000 short of the amount indicated in the liquidation report.

Bautista said the signature on the paper was also not his. "I presumed my signature was forged," he said.

Bautista believed that Estimo may have had a hand in the falsified document.

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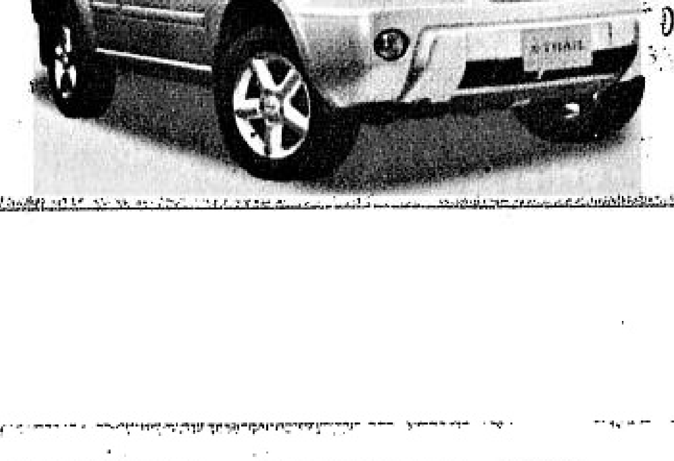

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4	TROY
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6	HELLBOY
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5	VAN HELSING
6	TROY

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2
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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TROY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	JERSEY GIRL
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9	MAY WIFE IS A GANGSTER
10	STARSKY & HUTCH

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2	

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3	
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6	
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8 (SDDS)	
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3	RESERVE
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7 (DTS)	TROY
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

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3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
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4 (DTS)	TROY

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3 (DTS)	TROY

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3 (DOLBY)	TROY
4	HAUNTED SPIRIT

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3 (DTS)	TROY
4	HAUNTED SPIRIT

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3	PAY CHECK

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Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

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2	TWISTED
3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

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2	STARSKY & HUTCH
3 (DTS)	TROY
4 (DOLBY)	I WILL SURVIVE

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3	TROY
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

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NOW SHOWING

Guidicelli sees tight kart race

CARMONA, Cavite—Pacesetter Matteo Guidicelli of Team CRG-Cebu gears up for a tight battle against two tough rivals—Allan Uy of Birel-A3 Motorsports and defending champion Michelle Bumgarner—tomorrow in the third leg of the 2004 Shell Karting Superseries at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Also seeking another big win in this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Aviva Insurance, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power is John Paul Dizon who's gunning for his second win in the KT Light class.

The 14-year-old Guidicelli ran away with a rare double victory in the last leg and is eyeing his second straight win in the premiere Open class.

But both Uy and Bumgarner are raring to stop his domination in this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Uy ruled the kick-off leg two months ago, and gave Guidicelli a tough fight, checking in just 0.993 seconds behind.

Bumgarner, bogged by factory defects on her engine in the past two legs, hopes to get back on track.

Crossover badminton blasts off

OLYMPIAN Weena Lim leads the stellar cast in the 105.1 Crossover Badminton Tournament today at the Club 650 Center on C5, Libis, Quezon City.

Lim will be teaming up with Wally Fernandez as they gun for the premiere Open class crown in this event organized by Team Powerplay through the support of Caltex, Sun Cellular, Mossimo, Club 650, Chef and Brewer, Gold's Gym, Nivea, Body and Soul, Discovery Suites, and Tronex.

Other strong contenders are the pair of Ian Piencenaves and Melody Villaceran, and real-life partners Bogs and Mylene Amahit.

Marbella vs Ortega

BERNARD Marbella of Cebu looks forward to his third week of stay as champion against veteran Al Ortega today in the "Search for Tanduay the No. 1 Billiards Player" at the Robinson's Malls.

Marbella pulled a 5-0 triumph over Jeffrey de Luna on his first title defense but faces greater odds against Ortega, an internationalist who bagged the silver in the 2001 Southeast Asian Games, in this event sponsored by Tanduay the No. 1 Rhum, Robinson's Malls, Accel, Hope The Luxury Cigarettes and Rommel's Billiards—the official table.

The match will be aired over the National Broadcasting Network at 8-9 p.m.

Battle for outright semis slot heats up

SAN Miguel's Danny Ildefonso wins the rebound off Alaska's Sonny Thoss. The Beermen won this game Wednesday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports Arena*)
4:10 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs FedEx
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

COCA-Cola and Alaska start their drive for the last available outright berth in the semifinals of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference when they mix it up with different foes today at the Philsports Arena.

With San Miguel Beer formally claiming top spot heading into the final two weeks of the classification phase, Alaska and Coca-Cola shift their sights on the next best thing, with the Tigers having the inside track.

Not only do the Tigers have a relatively lighter foe in FedEx at 4:10 p.m., Coke enjoys a half-a-game edge over Alaska in the standings with its 9-5 slate. The Aces tangle with Red Bull Barako at 6:30 p.m.

Even if the Beermen, enjoying a pace-setting 13-2 card, drop their remaining three assignments, nobody could stop them from securing the top slot and gaining an outright semis berth.

Only the Tigers have the chance to equalize should they sweep their last four games, but the Beermen still get the No. 1 ranking by virtue of a superior quotient.

Finishing second after the classification phase also gives the team outright entry to the semifinals, and there are actually two other teams with shots at the slot after Alaska and Coke in Red Bull (7-7) and idle Talk 'N Text (8-7).

Meanwhile, Purefoods enlisted another import in Joe Zalatel, replacing the brawny but ineffective Tyrone Washington with just three games left in its elimination campaign.

Zalatel is 6-foot-7 and weighs 340 lbs.

Gin Kings back to winning ways

SIOT Tanquingcen and his players have adjusted to each other and Barangay Ginebra is winning games again, commanding its legion of faithful back to the Philippine Basketball Association games.

After taking over Allan Caidic and losing his first five games, Tanquingcen is steering the Kings up the standings and the team now has a shot at nailing a twice-to-beat privilege in the first phase of the Gran Matador Fiesta Conference playoffs.

"It was really just a matter of me adjusting to my new players rather than they adjusting to my system," said Tanquingcen yesterday during the weekly Scoop sa Kamayan session.

"We still use the same system coach Allan (Caidic) used. We just defined the roles of the players and put emphasis on the little details of our defense," added Tanquingcen, a 32-year-old former deputy of Jong Uichico at San Miguel.

Mathematically, Ginebra still has a chance of clinching either No. 3 or No. 4 in the first part of the quarterfinals, its 7-8 record now good for sixth spot.

Mark Caguioa, Romel Adducul, Rodney Santos, Jayjay Helterbrand and Andy Siegle and assistant coach Binky Favis also guested in the session sponsored by the Triple V Group of companies and Photokina Marketing.

"Everybody has a passion to win. But winning needs total team effort and this is where the innovations of coach Siot comes into play," said Favis.

PBA governors meeting in HK

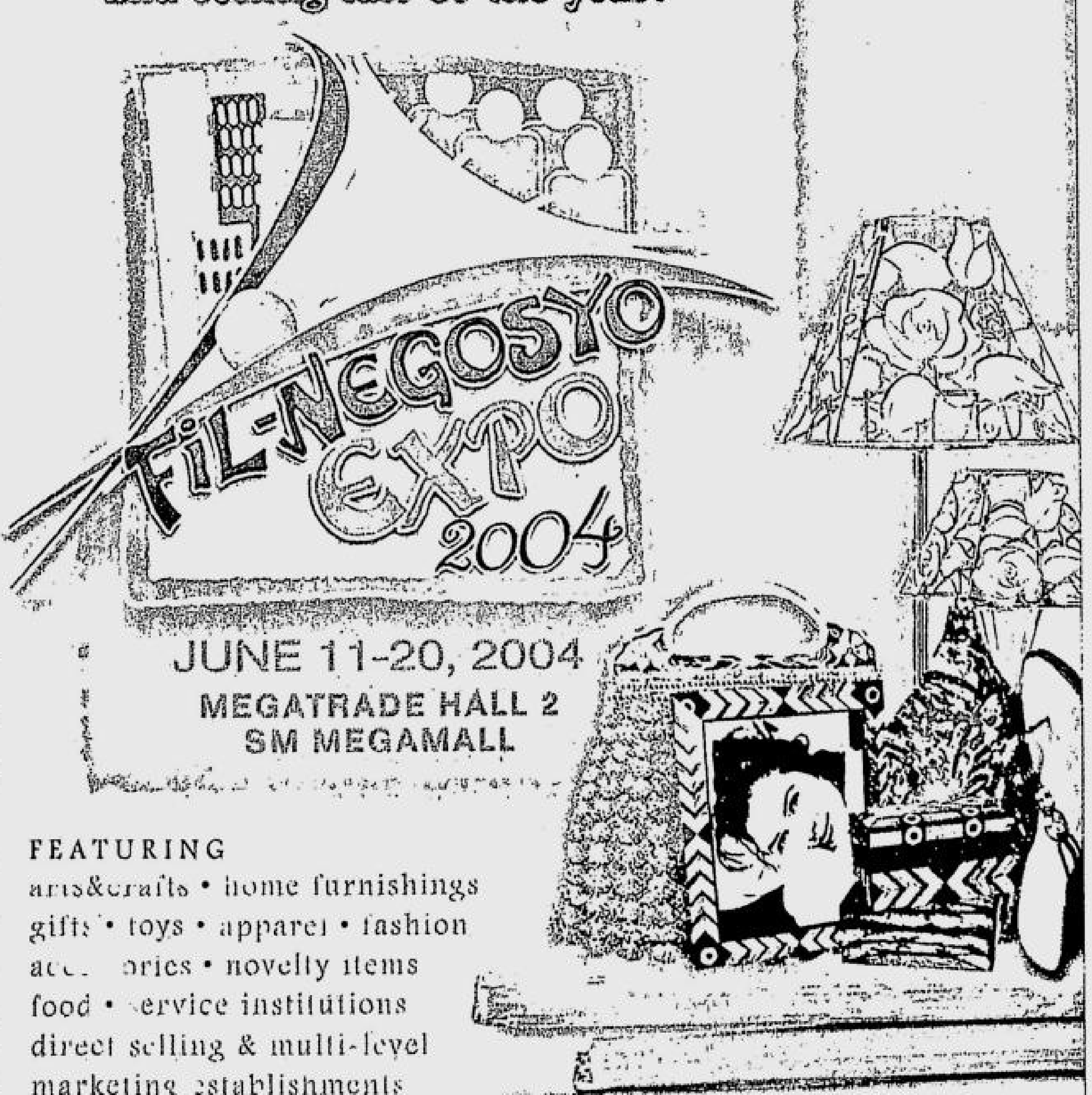
THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association's thrust to invade the international basketball landscape takes a concrete turn when the league's Board of Governors holds a directional meeting in Hong Kong near the end of the month.

Chair Buddy Encarnado said the board would address all issues concerning basketball not only within the confines of the league but also on how the PBA could uplift the image of the sport in the country.

"If I'm not mistaken, the last time we discussed the PBA's mission and vision was five to four years ago. It's about time we re-orient ourselves with the goals and objectives of the league," Encarnado told the INQUIRER.

Encarnado said the May 21-22 goal-setting convention of the PBA Board in Hong Kong would also delve on the ticklish topic of the national team.

June Navarro



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2 TROY	2 TROY	2 TROY	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 TROY 12 45, 4 00, 7 15, 10 30	2 TROY
3 TROY	3 VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TROY 12 45 4 00 7 15 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 JERSEY GIRL 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	3 JERSEY GIRL
4 JERSEY GIRL	4 I-WILL SURVIVE	4 MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 VAN HELSING 2 15 5 00 / TROY 8 45 12 00	4 VAN HELSING
5 VAN HELSING		5 TROY	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TROY 3 10 6 25, 9.40	5 HELLBOY
		6 TROY		
		7 VAN HELSING		

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1	VAN HELSING 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9 30
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Tarver insists he beat Jones

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Antonio Tarver believes he beat Roy Jones in their World Boxing Council light heavyweight title fight last November, so in the rematch on Saturday he doesn't plan to leave the outcome in the hands of the judges.

Jones claimed Tarver's WBC title with a majority decision in Las Vegas on November 8, a result that was greeted by boos from the crowd and which has rankled with Tarver ever since.

"It was a bitter pill to swallow, knowing he was not a better fighter than me," Tarver said.

Tarver, 32, handed Jones the worst punishment of his career and Jones was clearly struggling before he rallied in the late rounds to claim the narrow decision.

Jones, who had moved up to claim the World Boxing Associaton heavyweight title eight months earlier, blamed his lack of stamina on the loss of 20 pounds (9 kg) in eight weeks to get back to the light heavyweight limit.

Tarver, who boasts a record of 21 victories against two defeats with 17 wins inside the distance, says Jones won't have those excuses this time around.

"If he doesn't perform, if he doesn't show up, everybody is going to know that the first fight wasn't a fluke. I am going to put the finishing touches on Roy Jones once and for all," he said.

AFP

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	TROY
Ali 4	VAN HELSING
Ali 5	DUDA
Ali 6	KIROT SA DIBDIB
Ali 7	JERSEY GIRL

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MAY 23	PBA : SAN MIGUEL VS. FEDEX
MAY 26	PBA : STA LUCIA VS. SHELL
MAY 29	THE SEARCHERS
MAY 30	PBA : RED BULL VS. SAN MIGUEL
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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KIROT SA DIBDIB
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KIROT DA DIBDIB
B	CLOSED
C	

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CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-2	KIROT SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-6	HELLBOY
CINEMA-7	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-8	ANIMAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TROY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TROY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JERSEY GIRL
CINEMA-12	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER
CINEMA-14	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-15	I WILL SURVIVE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	TROY
CINEMA-1	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-2	HELLBOY
CINEMA-4	STARSKY & HUTCH

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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2	TROY	1:00, 4:30, 8:00, 11:30	PG-13
3	TROY	11:40, 3:10, 6:40, 10:10	PG-13
4	VAN HELSING	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	PG-13

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TROY PG13 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:55	VAN HELSING PG13 11:40, 2 20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10	TROY PG13 1:10, 4 20, 10:40

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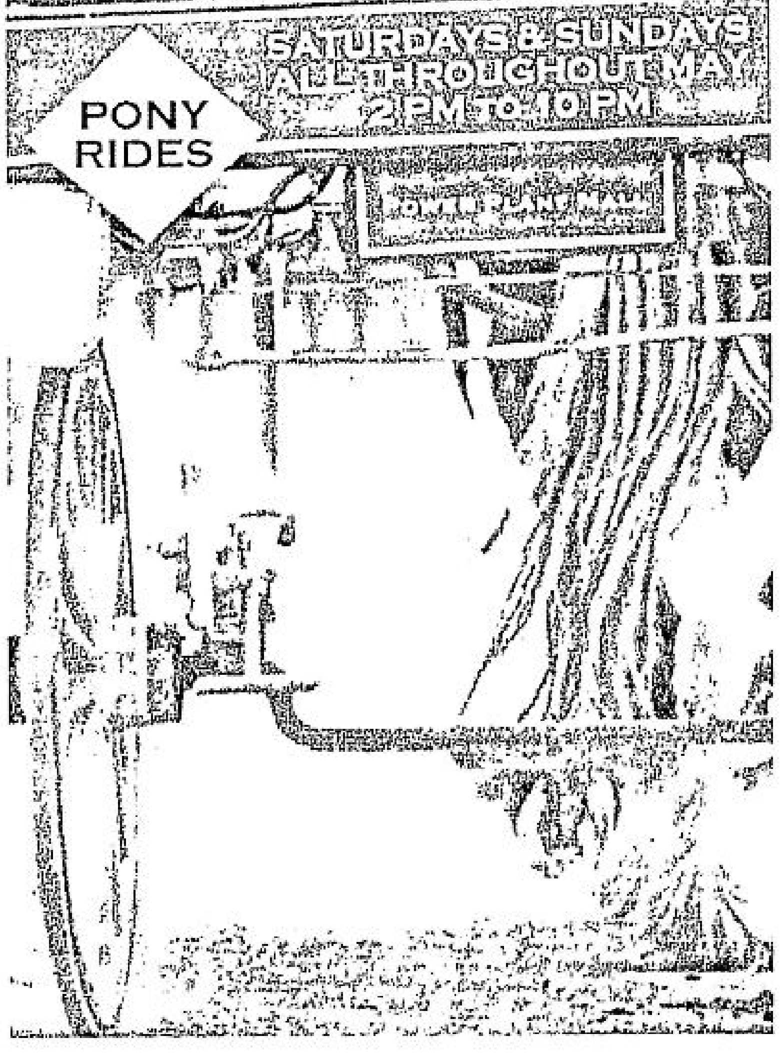

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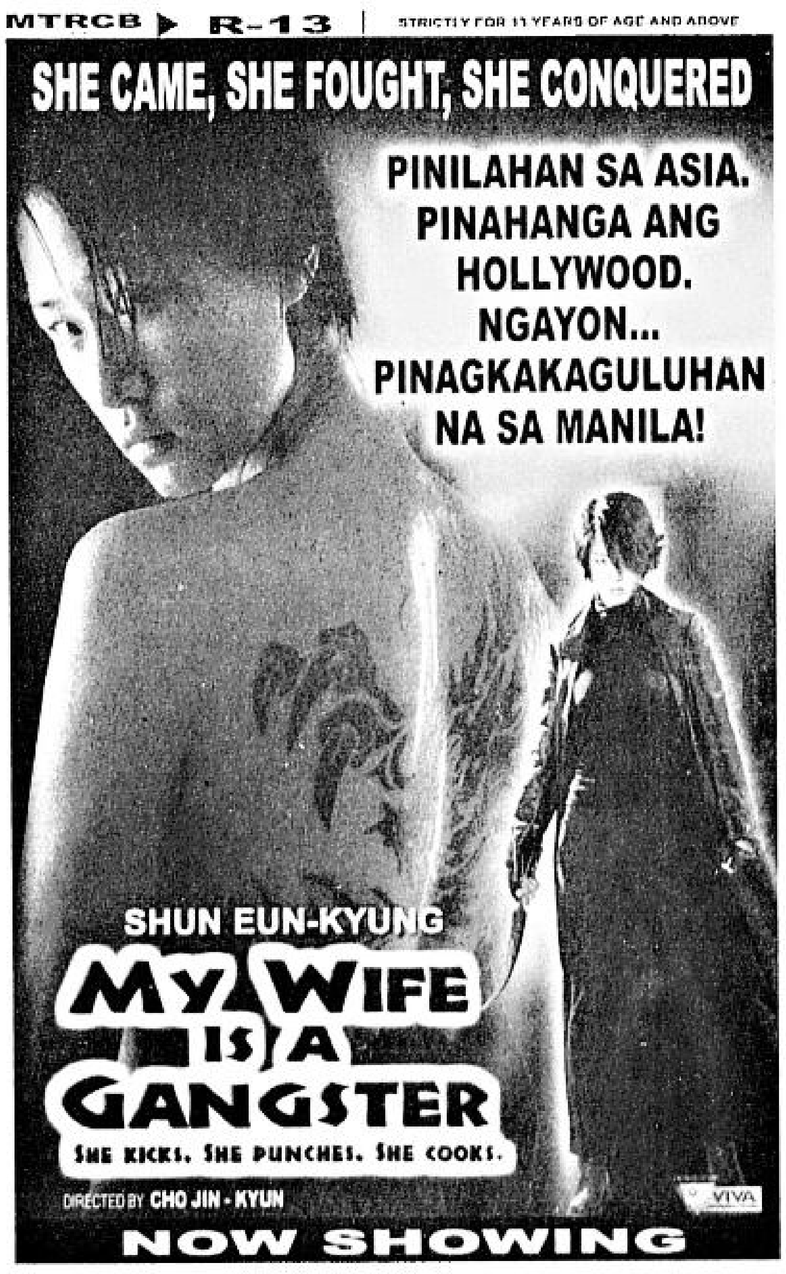
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3	TROY	11.15, 2.30, 5.45, 0 00
4	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER	11 55, 2.05, 4.15, 0 25, 8 36, 10 30
5	TROY	12.15, 3 30, 6 45, 10 00
6	VAN HELSING	10 30, 1.25, 4.20, 7 15, 10:00
7	CITY OF GOD	11 20, 2 00, 4 40, 7.20, 10 00
8	I WILL SURVIVE	10.35, 12.50, 3.05, 5 20, 7.35, 8 50
9	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	12 40, 2.55, 5 10, 7.25 9 40
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2	I WILL SURVIVE	10 50, 1 00, 3.10, 5 20, 7 30, 9 40
3	TROY	10 15, 1 15, 4 15, 7.15, 10 00
4	TROY	11:30, 2.35 5 40, 9 00
5	JERSEY GIRL	10.10, 12 25, 2.40 4.55, 7.10, 9.40
6	TROY	12 10, 3 15, 6 20, 9 30
7	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER	11.35, 1 45, 3 55, 6.05, 8.10, 10.00

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1	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	11.00. 1 00. 3 00. 5 00, 7 00, 9 00
2	TROY	10 40, 2.05, 5.30, 9.00
3	TROY	10 40, 2 05, 5 30 9 00
4	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER	10 50 12 50 2 50, 4 50 6 50 8 50 10 30
5	JERSEY GIRL	10:50, 12 50 2 50 4 50 6 50 9 00
6	VAN HELSING	10.10, 1 00, 4 10, 7 30, 10:30
7	TROY	1.20, 4 45, 8 10
8	I WILL SURVIVE	12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00 10:30

Big R Supercenter
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1	TROY	10:50, 2:10, 5.30, 8.45
2	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	10 25, 12.20, 2 15, 4 10, 6 05, 8 10
3	MAN ON FIRE	12 05, 2.40, 5 15, 8 10
4	VAN HELSING	12.00 2 45, 5 30 8.20
5	JERSEY GIRL	11 20, 1 35, 3 50 6 05, 8 30
6	TROY	12 30, 3 50, 7.10
7	I WILL SURVIVE	11 45, 1 55, 4 05, 6 15, 8.30
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4	JERSEY GIRL	4	SCHOOL OF ROCK	4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	KIROT SA DIBDIB	5	HELLBOY	5	ANIMAL
6	I WILL SURVIVE	6	ACACIA	6	SCHOOL OF ROCK

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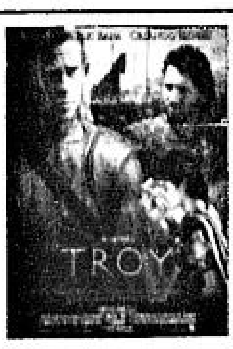

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Lion Heart tries again

BALTIMORE—In three races this year, Lion Heart has finished second, second and second. The classy colt loves to run on the lead, but he's been caught in the stretch every time.

Smarty Jones surged past him to win the Kentucky Derby two weeks ago. The Cliff's Edge ran him down in the Blue Grass. Imperialism beat him by a neck in the San Rafael.

What's a trainer's next move? Try again, naturally.

That's exactly what Patrick Biancone will do on Saturday when he sends out Lion Heart to challenge undefeated Smarty Jones and nine other 3-year-olds in the Preakness, the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Lion Heart has tasted victory before—he won all three of his starts as a 2-year-old—but this year he just seems to run out of steam before the finish line.

"We play to win, obviously," Biancone said. "I know it's going to be very difficult to beat Smarty Jones, but we are going to try. If we do it, well done. If we cannot, we cannot.

"You cannot punish your horse because another one is better than him."

So far, Smarty Jones has done all the punishing. *AP*

LION HEART

Marilao clinic set Monday

EVERYTHING is in readiness for the third Milo BEST Center Clinic on May 17-22 at the newly renovated Dr. Nicanor Guillermo Memorial Multipurpose Gym in Marilao, Bulacan.

The popular basketball clinic for boys and girls is organized by Pancho Manalad and Manu Iñigo in cooperation with Mayor Leoncio Duran and daughter Berna Duran-Velasco, chair of Mahal Ko Ang Marilao Movement.

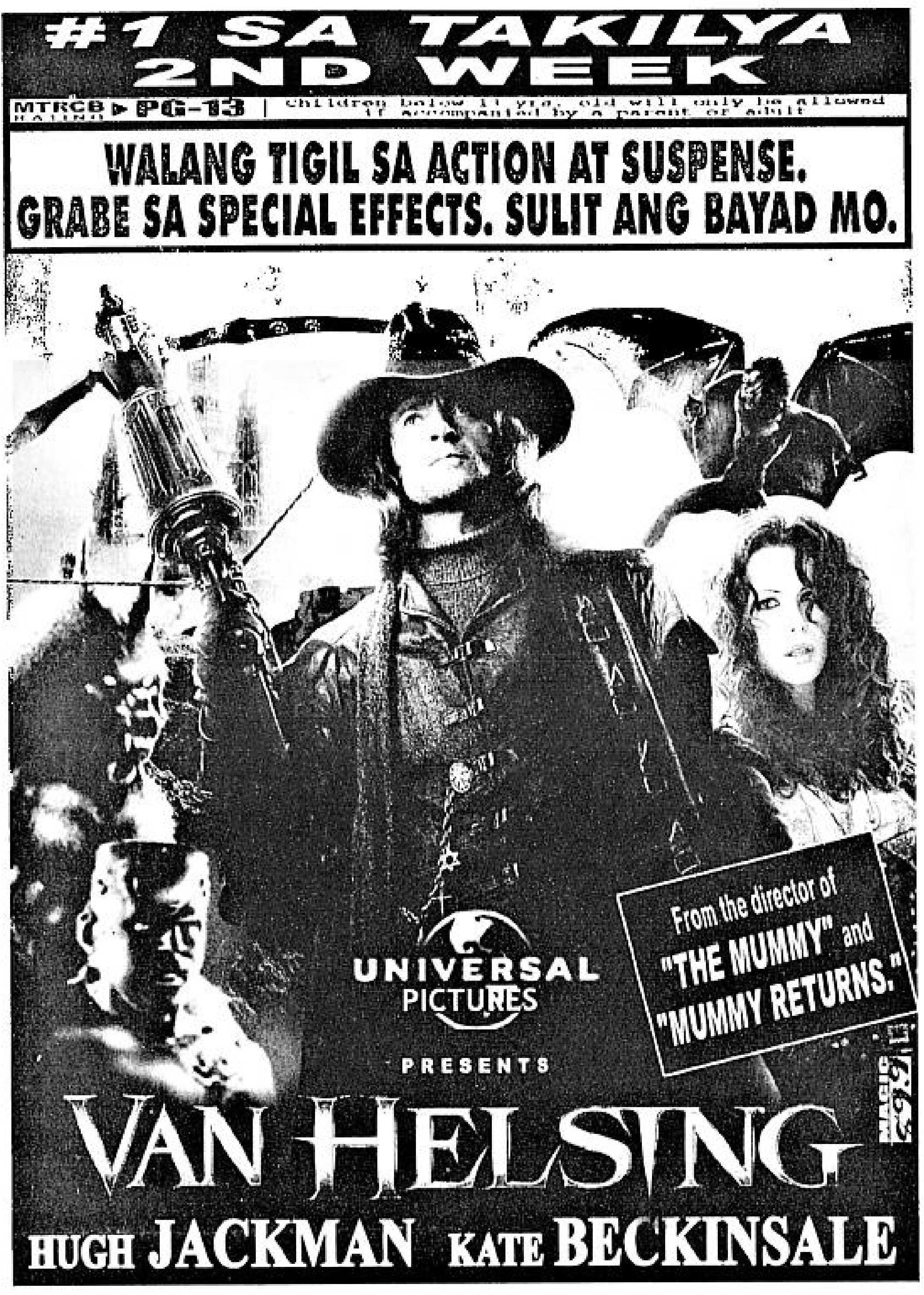
For details, call Manalad at (044) 711-2481, Coleen Iñigo at (044) 933-1214 or Manu Iñigo at (02) 240-0548.

BEST Clinic is one of several sports projects supported by Milo as a corporate commitment. The others are Checkmate, a ches development program for the youth; Milo Marathon, taekwondo, golf, gymnastics, swimming, football, karatedo, volleyball, tennis, bowling, squash, badminton, table tennis and fencing.

Korea eyes badminton miracle

JAKARTA—South Korea's coach has admitted his women's badminton team has little chance of dislodging Uber Cup champions China and said it was a "miracle" his players had reached Saturday's final.

The South Koreans won a thrilling semifinal against Denmark late Thursday largely due to the heroics of 18-year-old Lee Yun-Hwa, who delivered both a singles and deciding doubles victory after being picked to play at the last minute. *AFP*



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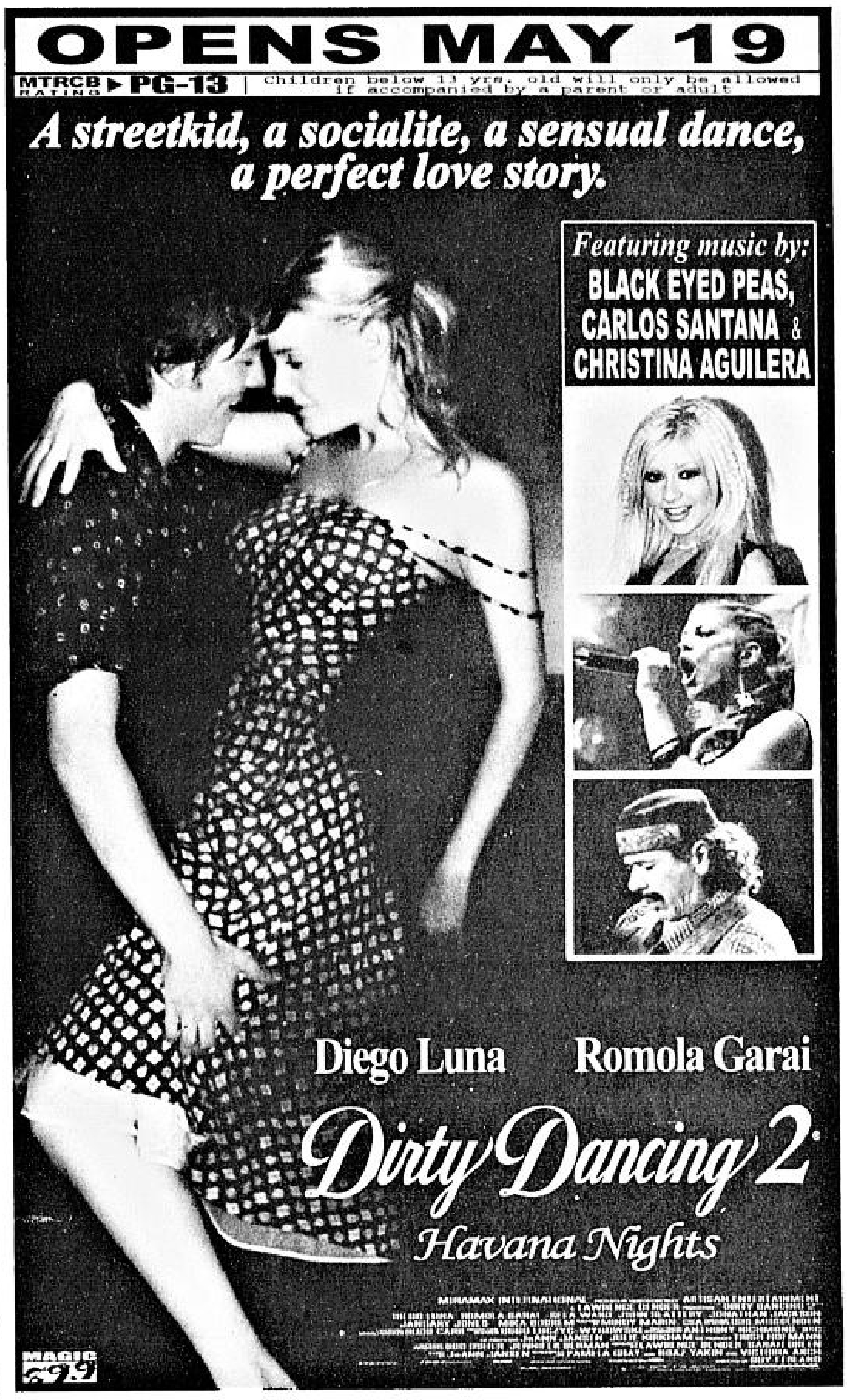

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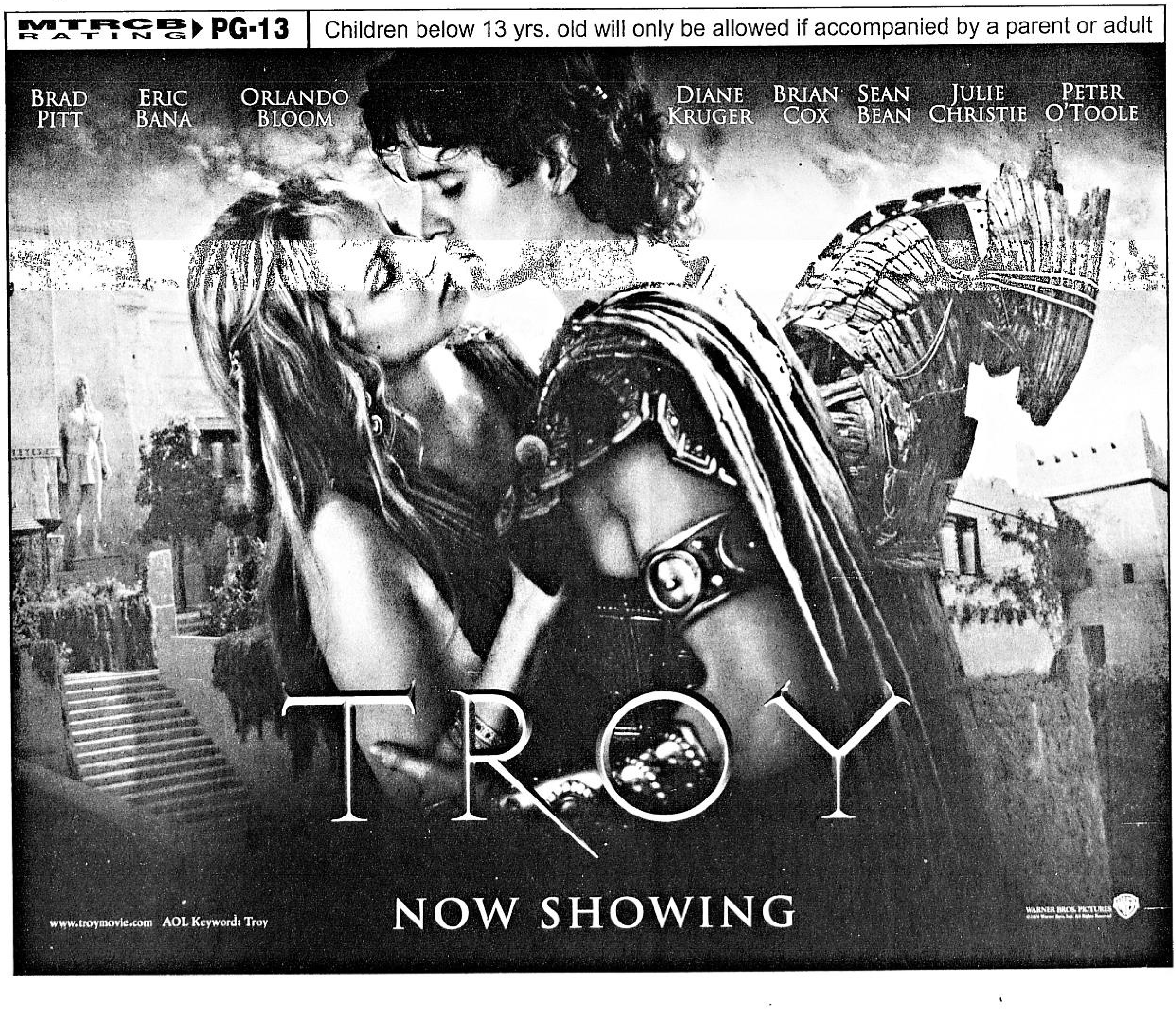

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Woods just a shot off Lonard, Lewis

IRVING, Texas—Peter Lonard won't make this mistake again.

Instead of enjoying some time off with the boys Down Under, the 36-year-old Australian decided to get serious about his fitness and his game during the short offseason. He came to Florida during Christmas break, worked out with his trainer and wound up cracking a rib that kept him off the PGA Tour for six weeks.

"Next year, I'll stay in Australia and get drunk with my mates, like I always do," Lonard said.

The injury set him back this year, but Lonard started to see some progress Thursday in the first round of the Byron Nelson Championship. Despite hitting only six fairways, he hit enough greens and holed enough putts to go around Cottonwood Valley in 6-under 64 to share the lead with J.L. Lewis.

Lewis also played the easier Cottonwood Valley, making no bogeys and all but one of his birdies inside 10 feet.

They were one stroke ahead of Tiger Woods, whose round looked familiar.

After finishing one shot out of the playoff at the Wachovia Championship despite hitting only 43 percent of his fairways, Woods again had a hard time finding the short grass, but certainly found the cup. Another erratic round off the tee was compensated with good iron play and great putting, and he wound up one shot back after a 65 on the TPC at Las Colinas. He was tied with Dudley Hart, who played Cottonwood Valley.

"Basically, I had one really bad golf shot today, and that was on 10," Woods said, referring to a driver that caddie Steve Williams suggested he hit. Woods went well right into the trees, had no chance to get to the green and hit a flop shot some 25 feet beyond the flag for a bogey.

Still, it wasn't a bad start considering he played on the tougher Las Colinas course.

Most players were surprised they even finished considering the weather—gathering storm clouds, strong gusts and lightning on the horizon, but it was never close enough to the course that play was stopped.

The softer greens allowed 69 players to break par. *AP*

WOODS eyes a putt on the 12th. AP

IN THE HUNT
Australian Greg Norman watches his tee shot during the second round of the BMW Asian Open. The Great White Shark started his round with a 67. AFP

Macatangay nips Bunyi at Orchard; Superals up

TERENCE Macatangay nipped Gino Bunyi in a sudden-death playoff for his third consecutive win even as the Superals pulled off version three of their family sweep with the ball-bashing Gino Bunyi on Thursday in the Samsung Philippine Jungolf Tour at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Tied for the lead after 36 holes, Macatangay and Bunyi still checked in with similar scores of 79 to send their duel into an extension on the 18th hole of the Palmer course.

Macatangay made par while Bunyi bungled his bid for a first win with a bogey in the tourney sponsored by International Container Terminal Services Inc. and Philippine Airlines.

The Superals were almost denied of the sweep by a resurgent Debbie de Villa.

Crystal Faith Superal, one of the top performers in last year's Junior World campaign, engaged in a shootout but was not able to erase the three-stroke deficit she faced before the round as both ended up with 80s.

Superal wound up at 242 while De Villa was at 245 in Girls Class B.

Wolen Superal and sister Princess, however, topped their respective divisions in runaway fashion for the sweep that came after similar feats in Sherwood Hills and Canlubang.

Wolen won Boys Class B by 20 with his 76-235 while Princess had 92-267 to top Girls Class E by 17 strokes.

Other winners were Erika Salinas (Girls Class A), Migo Ochoa (Boys Class B), Paulina Sotto (Girls Class C), Katya dela Cruz (Girls Class D), Don Martin Fernandez (Boys Class D) and AR Ramos (Boys Class E).

The six-year-and-under titles went to Rupert Saragoza and Janella Buen.

The Tour, also supported by Gonads and Unilever, goes to Southwoods next week.

Scranton wrests lead sans big guns, Jenny

ROSALES: Hurting back

FRANKLIN, Tennessee—With the LPGA tour's youngsters looking to break through in the absence of Annika Sorenstam and Se Ri Pak, 43-year-old Nancy Scranton grabbed a one-stroke lead Thursday with a 66 at the Franklin American Mortgage Championship.

Also absent was Filipina Jennifer Rosales, who fell off the stage in a freak accident after a photo session for the Golf Digest Magazine.

Her swing coach, Bong Lopez, said Rosales, who topped the Chick-Fil-A Charity tournament for her first LPGA title last month, hurt her back..

Scranton is one of the oldest full-time members of the LPGA Tour, but it looked like she was in her prime as she birdied the final two holes of a bogey-free round at the Vanderbilt Legends Club's damp Ironhorse Course.

With Sorenstam and Pak taking the week off, Stacy Prammanasudh and Candy Hannemann grabbed their share of the spotlight. Prammanasudh ended the day a stroke off the pace, with Hannemann sharing third, two shots back.

It was the best round of the year for Scranton, who has won just once in the last 11 years. *AFP*

PFF reconfirms ruling retraction

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation reconfirmed recently that it had retracted a 1960s ruling that mandated all teams participating in its competitions to have a line-up composed of 60 percent Filipinos and 40 percent foreigners.

The reconfirmation came as questions and apprehensions were voiced out in the recently-held Football Nite organized by the PFF.

In the early '60s, the then Philippine Football Association passed a ruling that disallowed teams with a line-up of more than 40 percent foreigners to participate in its leagues.

The rule followed the passage of the Retail Trade Nationalization Law which effectively disallowed the registration of retail businesses that were not at least 60 percent owned by Filipinos.

150 fights slated in 4-cock derby

COCKFIGHTING action starts early today as Roligon Mega Cockpit presents more than 150 fights in the S/S 4-Cock Derby to be sponsored by Casino Filipino-Parañaque and Thunderbird Platinum.

At stake is a guaranteed P450,000 prize.

Among the favorite entries are Banahaw (Benjie Lim), Serge (Serge Capistrano), Cash Premyo 3-Cock June 5 (Abraham Bernales), Nevada (Tos Reyes), Assassin (Dong Lacson), Tomcat (Hajime Ogawa), JU Hatawan (James Uy and Alan Tan), RMT Stallion (Romy Tan), BM Bulalayaw (Boy Marzo), Bobcock (Bobby Seelin), Pasay 4-cock May 28 (William Go), LA 939 (L. Alcantara), Mangzee Farm (Bobby del Rosario), Phoenix (Tito Reyes), CMS (Carding Ng) and RV Raiders (Rodrigo Villarubio).

NCA Araneta event set May 18 and 20

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association presents another 7-cock derby on May 18 and 20 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Derby hosts John Capinpin, Pol Estrellado and Boy Royo said that more than 40 entries are invited in this affair.

Submission of entries is on May 17, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Araneta green gate. Contact 911-3101 and 911-2928 (look for Gloria Avena).

Also slated is the NCA 7-Cock Derby on June 1 and 3 to be hosted by the Sundance Group.

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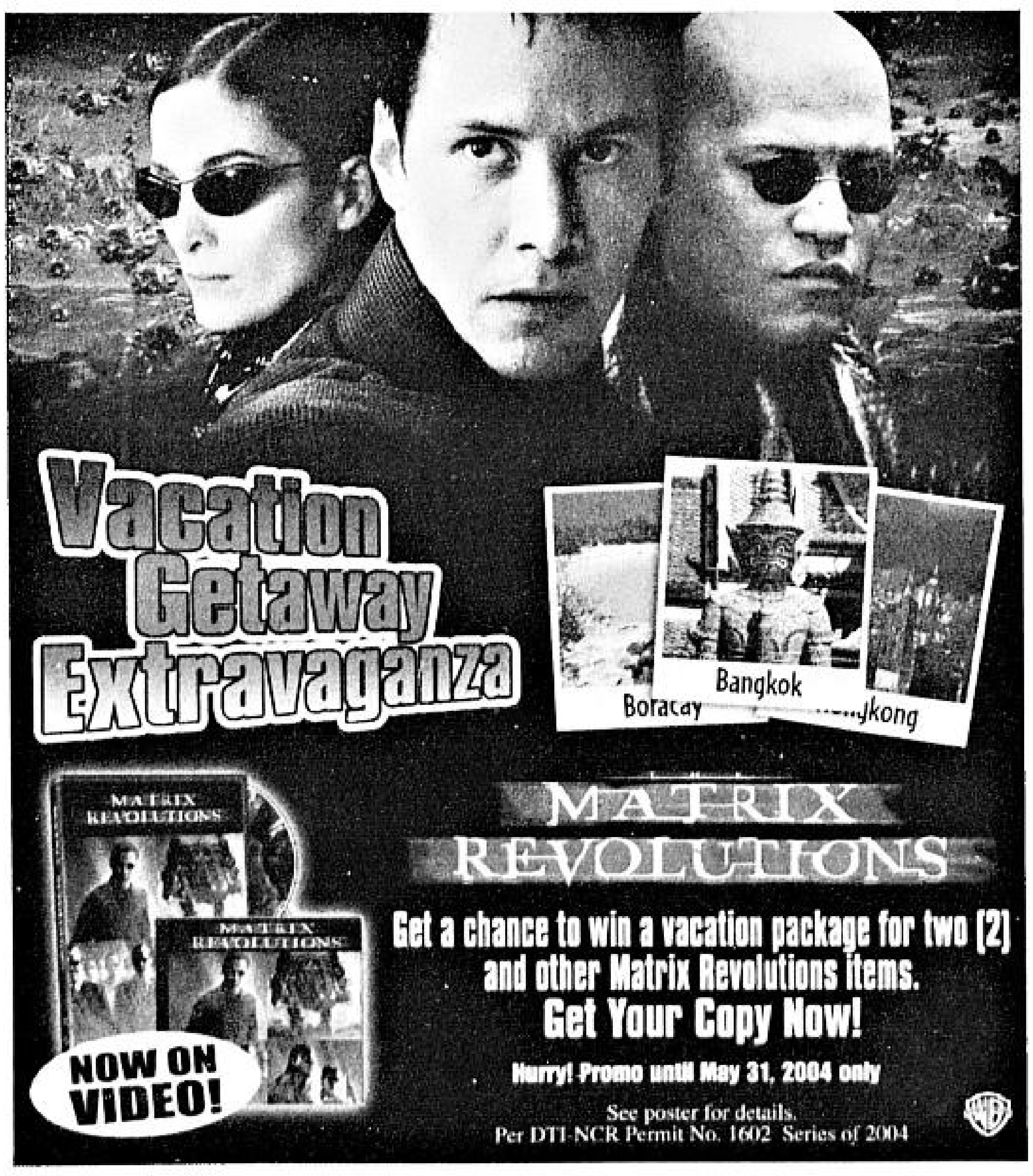
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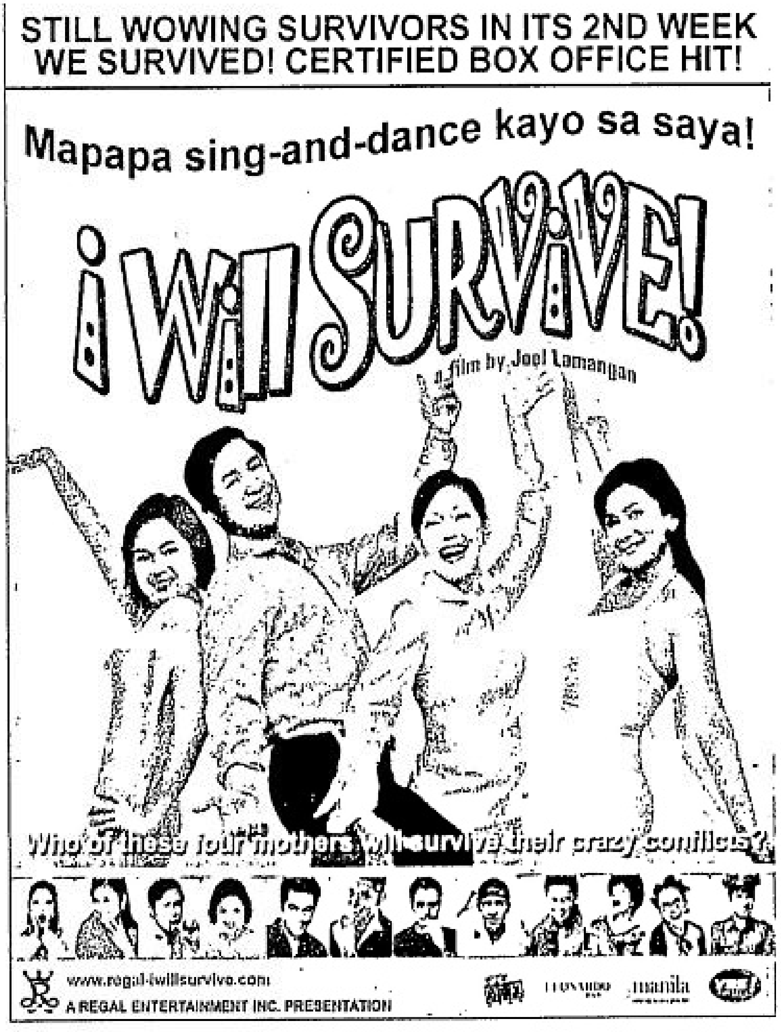
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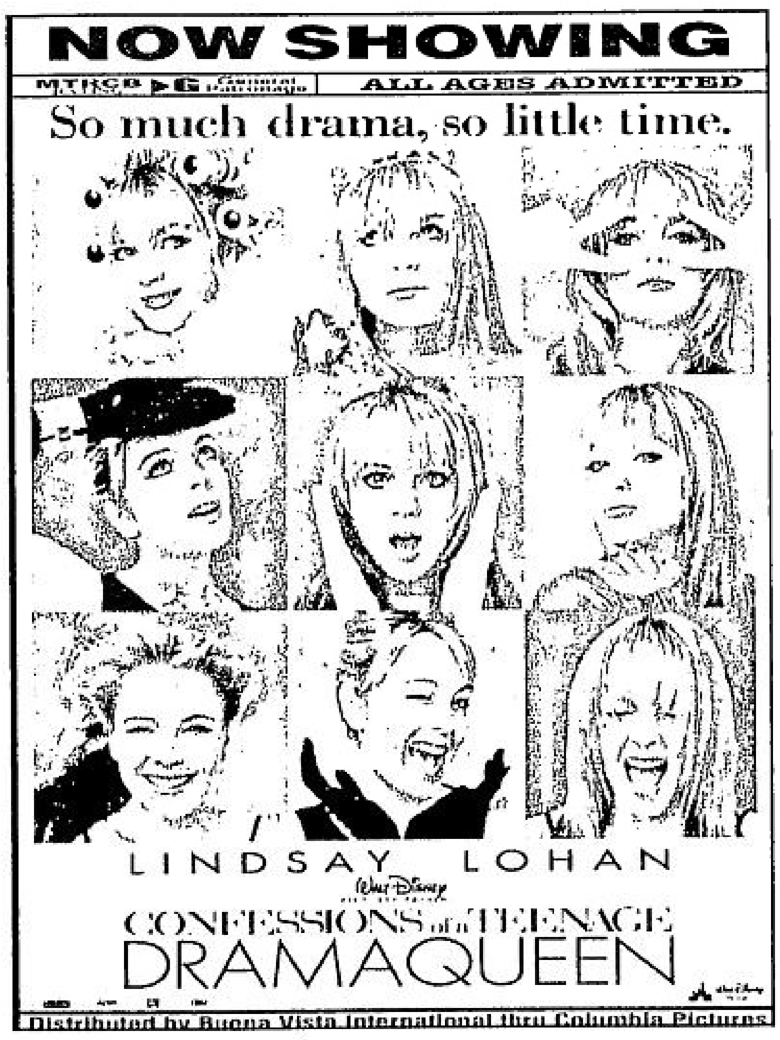
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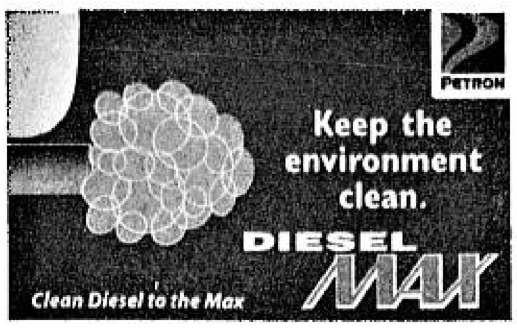
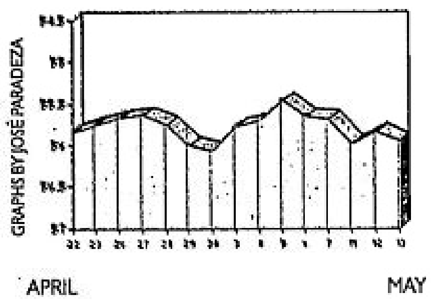


INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.98 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 14, 2004

¥ 114.66 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 14, 2004

GOLD: $379.50-380.00
per ounce Hong Kong, May 12, 2004

Shares close 0.32% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.32 percent lower yesterday, reversing early gains as many investors remained on the sidelines as they wait for the results from this week's presidential election, dealers said.

They said the financial markets are expected to remain volatile until a clear picture starts to emerge indicating who has won the presidential election.

Partial and unofficial results showed incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo, the financial market's favorite, with a slim lead over her main rival, film star Fernando Poe Jr.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 4.86 points at 1,521.61 after trading between 1,518.39 and 1,531.19.

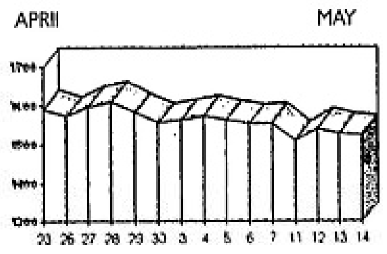
Volume was 151.61 million shares worth P388.7 million compared with 147.55 million shares worth P3.76 billion Thursday. Losers led gainers 20 to 14, while 38 stocks were unchanged.

"While the medium-term direction points to an uptrend, the market is now undergoing consolidation and is being held back on poll-related uncertainties," DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila said.

"However, we expect concerns to ease as the counting progresses. The only thing that could reverse this positive scenario is if people go back to the streets to protest."

Dealers said prospects of higher interest rates, following an impending rise in the United States as early as June, have also given investors added reason to hold on to their funds instead of taking aggressive positions in the equities market. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Farm sector posts highest growth in 15 yrs

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE ECONOMY, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), was estimated to have expanded by 5 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

Neri made the forecast after the government announced that output by the farm sector, which accounts for a fifth of GDP, grew 8.16 percent in the first quarter from the same period of 2003—the strongest expansion in 15 years.

The Department of Agriculture attributed the "phenomenal growth" to good harvests, particularly of rice and corn.

Output in other areas—livestock, poultry and fishery—also expanded, it said.

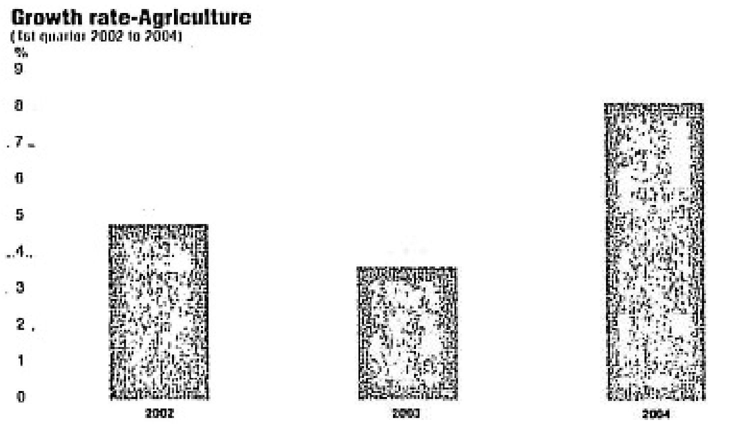
The farm sector recorded a revised growth of 3.63 percent in the first quarter of 2003 from a year earlier.

"We are now seeing the fruits of the various programs we have put in place to increase production and productivity," Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

He was referring to the distribution of subsidized higher-yielding rice and corn seeds, expansion of irrigation facilities and credit given to farmers.

"With the sector's consistent growth during the past three years, we have been able to extricate ourselves from the boom-and-bust cycle that characterized our agricultural sector in the past," he said.

Lorenzo said the country could sustain the growth momentum in the farm sector through the use of modern farm technology and better-yielding seeds.



First-quarter output in the crops sub-sector, which accounted for half of the total value of farm production, rose 6.22 percent from a year earlier due largely to a record rice harvest.

Unmilled rice production jumped 13.14 percent in the first quarter to 3.43 million tons while corn output rose 13.4 percent to 1.53 million tons.

First-quarter output in the livestock sub-sector climbed 3.32 percent from a year earlier, while the poultry sub-sector expanded 3.40 percent.

Output in the fishery sub-sector surged 20.84 percent in the first three months from a year earlier.

The total value of agricultural production rose 13.83 percent to P192 billion at current prices between January and March this year, or more than double the 6.72-percent growth rate registered in the same period of 2003.

Lorenzo said good rice harvest was the result of the expansion in irrigated areas due to repair of

FARM/ B2

OFW remittances up 10% in March to $704.6M

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS sent home by overseas Filipinos rose by almost 10 percent in March from a year ago due to the deployment of more workers abroad and the peso's fall to record lows that enticed more remittances.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that inflows from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) hit $704.65 million in March, or 9.97 percent higher than the $640.77 million in the same month last year.

This brought the first-quarter OFW remittances to $1.92 billion or 4.29 percent better than the level during the same period last year.

"The first quarter's favorable performance provides comfortable buffer to the projected 3-percent growth of remittances for the whole of 2004," BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said in a statement yesterday.

"In fact, the last two months of the quarter each yielded almost 10-percent annual growth in remittances," Reyes said.

The growth in remittances in March was the strongest since the start of the year. In February, a 9.83-percent growth was posted while in January, there was a 5.83-percent contraction.

Reyes attributed the growth in March remittances to the following:

- the weakening of the peso to as low as 56.45 to the dollar that allowed higher conversion value of foreign exchange remittances;
- the seasonal remittances in time for school enrollment, and
- the observed 18.9-percent increase in the deployment of Filipino workers abroad to 281,526 from 236,699 in the same quarter in 2003.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Reyes said land-based workers grew by 23.8 percent to 224,433 while sea-based workers rose by 3 percent to 57,093.

"Increased fund transfers from Hong Kong, the United States, the United Kingdom and Italy were observed during the reference quarter, which more than compensated for the slack in remittances from other traditional labor markets such as Japan and Singapore," Reyes said.

Except for Hong Kong, Reyes said those countries were the usual destinations of higher-paid workers such as caregivers, nurses, and information technology workers.

The peso depreciation in the ear-

OFW/ B3

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Governance in agriculture

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez
Contributor

COMMENTARY

ELECTIONS are over. Even as the vote counting continues, the Alyansa Agrikultura is already busy preparing for its meeting with whoever will win as president. The Alyansa is the largest farmer and fisherfolk coalition today, composed of 38 national and local federations and organizations.

It will not be the first time the Alyansa will interact with the incoming president. The Alyansa had previously done a role reversal by presenting its proposed agriculture agenda to the presidential candidates for their responses.

All five candidates agreed to adopt the Alyansa agenda with its small farmer and fisherfolk emphasis, except for minor modifications. The agenda is summarized in a two-page document, with specific rather than general "motherhood" recommendations.

Unanimously agreed upon after yearlong consultations, the most important recommendations concerned major commodities (i.e. rice, corn, sugar, fruits and vegetables, livestock and poultry, and fisheries).

There were also recommendations to support agriculture (e.g. master plans, the agri-budget and irrigation), the international trade regime, agrarian reform, women, indigenous people and governance.

For the forthcoming meeting with the newly elected president, the Alyansa is giving special emphasis to two key recommendations in the area of governance.

Participation, accountability

The first recommendation on governance as listed in the agenda summary reads: "Ensure small agriculture and fishery stakeholders participation and representation in planning and implementing bodies (e.g. strengthen agriculture and fisheries councils with improved transparency and accountability)."

Edwin Andot, chair of Region 10's Regional Agriculture and Fishery Council (RAFC), said, "The agriculture and fisheries councils (AFC's) at the national, regional, provincial and municipal levels are the legally mandated mechanisms for private sector participation in the government's agriculture development programs. It is only appropriate that the Department of Agriculture (DA) reveal to these AFCs both their programs and the corresponding budget distributions. This will provide for both transparency and accountability."

The AFCs are generally not given the details in programs and budget that Andot recommends. However, these details are necessary for meaningful private sector participation. Corruption and misuse of funds will also be minimized. If the newly elected government promotes this kind of transparency and accountability, this will be a giant step toward good governance.

Focus and coordination

The second recommendation on governance reads: "Ensure a focused and coordinated approach to agriculture development, such as establishing coordination mechanisms between and among the DA, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)."

Ricardo Provido is Region 6's RAFC chair and the national coordinator of all the RAFCs in the country. "I have seen agricultural development resources inefficiently used because there is a lack of focus in the absence of a master plan," he said. "And when the DA acts without coordinating with the appropriate agencies, the desired results are not achieved."

Provido cites the numerous cases of land reform where the farmers become worse rather than better off. In many cases, the DAR gives the land to the tenant who loses the support services previously given by his landlord, such as production technology, credit and markets.

If the DA does not provide these services, the tenant soon finds himself deeper into poverty.

In the natural resource area, mangroves are often destroyed to make way for aquaculture development. In the Philippines, 90 percent of the mangrove areas, which formerly covered 176,231 hectares, have been converted to fishponds.

Many of these conversions have contributed to the rapid deterioration of coastal areas. In several instances, only a few well-off individuals with sufficient capital to invest have benefited from the aquaculture industry, to the detriment of the poor local communities.

What is worse is that poor management and unsustainable practices have led to the abandonment of 20-40 percent of fishponds, leaving bare and degraded salt-flats or acid-sulphate soils. Though indiscriminate mangrove conversion into fishponds may make the aquaculture growth rate look better, the welfare of the community becomes far worse. DA coordination with the DENR can help put an end to this.

In the area of trade, Provido says, "Selling our goods remains a key problem. We must move from a production to a marketing orientation. This is where DA can coordinate better with DTI to find more local opportunities (such as marketing tie-ups with processing firms) and more export markets."

This June, Provido is forming a RAFC working group to ensure this needed coordination. Its members will not only be DA, DAR, DENR and DTI, but also a private sector and a local government unit (LGU) representative to ensure the right focus in agriculture development.

Conclusion

The key to agriculture development and the improved welfare of the farmers and fisherfolk is good governance. Private sector participation, accountability, focus and coordination are critical ingredients. It is hoped that in the forthcoming meetings between the Alyansa and the newly elected and appointed government officials, these ingredients will be included in the new recipe for good governance in agriculture.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

Petron profits up 77% to ₱786M

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL MAJOR Petron Corp. registered a 77-percent surge in profits to P786 million in the first quarter from P445 million in the same period last year on the back of stronger sales in the domestic market.

Sales revenues increased by 14 percent to P32.5 billion from P28.5 billion in 2003, with growth mostly coming from sales to the National Power Corp.

The state firm accounted for 13 percent of Petron's total sales volume for the quarter.

Volume sold to customers from other sectors likewise posted growth. Retail sales also chalked up a 7-percent growth.

Sales of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) increased by almost 3 percent.

The company's operating expenses for the January-March period, however, was almost 23 percent higher at close to P1.3 billion from P1.1 billion in the same period the year before.

But the growth in sales from all major sectors more than compensated for the opex increase, giving Petron a wider gross margin of 8.6 percent from 7.3 percent in 2003.

"Our sales performance to date is the outcome of several initiatives we have launched across business units," said Virginia Ruivivar, Petron public affairs manager. "Petron gained market share in 2003 despite a 1-percent decline in local oil demand, and we are aiming to sustain and even surpass the gains we made."

Apart from spending for various marketing-related activities, Petron this year has earmarked $100 million for two projects that will upgrade its Bataan refinery.

Trading stopped for 10 firms that failed to submit report

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) will suspend trading for 10 companies that have failed to submit annual financial reports.

The companies are holding firms Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc., Wise Holdings Inc., Uniwide Holdings, Unioil Resources & Holdings, Solid Group Inc., leisure firm Mondragon International, Forum Pacific, Fil-Estate Corp., DMCI Holdings and Cyber Bay Corp.

The PSE said the 10 companies did not submit their annual reports for 2003, while some of them were assessed basic and daily fines.

As a result, trading for these companies will be temporarily stopped on Monday.

Cyber Bay, for its part, wrote the PSE explaining why it could not submit its annual report.

It also asked the PSE for a voluntary suspension of trading until it has complied with the requirements.

Cyber Bay said it is facing an "abnormal situation" where its only asset or investment approved by two administrations had been cancelled by the Supreme Court in a November 2003 decision.

Earlier dubbed as Centennial City Inc., Cyber Bay is involved in the development of reclaimed land in Manila Bay. Cyber Bay wholly owns Central Bay Reclamation and Development Corp., formerly the Amari Coastal Bay Development Corp.

Amari has a joint venture agreement with the Public Estates Authority for the reclamation of 750 hectares of land along the Manila-Cavite coastal road.

The master plan involves the development of a world-class center of commerce, entertainment, shopping and education, with some residential communities thrown in.

The high court earlier nullified the amended joint-venture contract between PEA and Amari citing, among others, that reclaimed lands are public domain and could not be sold to private enterprises.

Cyber Bay pointed out that the Supreme Court decision has not clearly defined its rights under the contract with the Public Estates Authority nor has the high court addressed how the company would be reimbursed.

Management is discussing with its board and auditors how to treat their investments in the financial report.

RP trade show generates $66M

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE RECENTLY concluded Manila FAME International registered a total of $66.3 million in receipts, according to the Department to Trade and Industry.

Organized by DTI's export promotion arm Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), Manila FAME is the country's biggest trade show on home furnishings, gifts and holiday décor as well as fashion accessories.

Data from the DTI show that around 3,000 foreign and local buyers attended last month's exhibition. Of the foreign customers, 116 new buyers were from Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Finland, French Polynesia, Fiji Islands, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, South Korea, Oman, Bahrain and Jordan.

"Increased participation proves that the country, through its Manila FAME International, is carving a niche for its well-crafted products in the global marketplace and is gaining reputation as a prime source of premium merchandise," Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said.

The official added that according to a Citem survey, "design and craftsmanship have always been (our) edge among other countries."

Based on the average daily expenses of foreign guests and local exhibitors, Manila FAME also enabled local government units and allied industries—including the hotel and transport sectors—to earn P52.6 million in revenues.

Citem also reported that more buyers were coming back to the Manila FAME because of indigenous materials used in Philippine products.

"According to the foreign buyers, (the exhibit) had exceptionally crafted merchandise and original designs," Purisima said.

"Our vision is to make the Philippines a global player in furniture, furnishings, gifts, holiday décor and fashion accessories sectors," he said. "This will entail a sustained effort to develop and showcase our top-of-the-line products and services to prospective markets."

Earlier, the DTI reported that total exports of woodcraft and furniture increased by 7.8 percent to $333 million in 2003 from $309 million in 2002.

PURISIMA

Still, Purisima called on industry players to work on becoming a dominant player in the world market through continued innovation and competitive pricing.

"Although our industry has made tremendous progress over the years, this is not enough because we hardly made a dent on the world market," the official said.

The DTI cited world industry figures which showed that Philippine exports account for only 0.2 percent of world furniture demand.

Firms ordered to appoint compliance officers

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will require all financing companies to appoint an official or director as compliance officer to safeguard corporate governance principles.

Lilia Bautista, SEC chair, said the circular would cover financing companies, investment houses, fund managers, distributors, pre-need companies, and mutual fund or investment companies.

Certification for the compliance officer will be issued after he passes a written examination on industry laws and regulations.

A person already tasked to be the company's compliance officer may continue acting in that capacity after he passes the said exam within one year from the issuance of the circular.

Companies that fail to comply with the certification will be meted a fine of P10,000 and P500 for each day of delay in compliance.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 14, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	47,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	44,200
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	840
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40	40	40	170,400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.25	24.5	24	24.25	281,800
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	10,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	1,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	120,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	170	200	170	200	260
Manulife Financial Corp.	1960	1960	1960	1960	540
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	120,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1450	1450	1450	1450	1,260
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21	21	76,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	570,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	845	830	835	13,300
Ipeople Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	34,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	5,727,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1060	1065	1050	1050	117,640
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	38,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	96,100
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31.5	30	30.5	1,422,900
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.1	4,062,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	66,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	1	0.97	1	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	3	3	10,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	120,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	13,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20.25	88,600
RFM Corp.	0.62	0.66	0.58	0.58	90,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59	58.5	59	319,700
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73	72	72	80,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	350,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	1,207,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	830,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	30,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	900,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	4,500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	382,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	1,675,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,290,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	5,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	6,800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21	20.75	20.75	272,600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	474,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	2,350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.23	0.26	440,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	555,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	16,886,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	300,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	25,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	14,000,000

Farm sector . . .

From page B1

existing facilities and the operation of new irrigation systems, increased planting and improved productivity due to wider use of hybrid seeds and other farm inputs.

He said corn output also went up due to increased harvest areas, favorable weather and improved yield especially among farmers in Cagayan Valley, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, Socsargen, and Ilocos due to the increased use of hybrid seeds.

Lorenzo said that despite a slight decline in cattle output, the livestock sub-sector managed to grow, posting a 3.3-percent expansion in the first quarter due to higher production of carabao, hogs, goat and dairy products.

He said poultry also grew 3.4 percent, although slightly lower than the 5.06-percent expansion recorded in the first quarter of 2003.

DISCLOSURES

AYALA Corp. reduced its listed shares by 5,811 common shares which represent the unaccounted shares that cannot be traced to any supporting document.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **International Container Terminal Services Inc.** were Enrique Razon Jr., chair; Eduardo Soriano, vice chair; Jose Ibazeta, Stephen Paradies, Dante Santos, Andres Soriano III, Ernest Cuyegkeng, Ramon Alegre and Octavio Victor Espiritu.

* * *

PANCAKE House Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 10 a.m. at the 2/F, 2263 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 31 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 8, 3 p.m. at the 4/F of Holiday Inn Galleria, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of April 30 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PACIFICA Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 17, 3 p.m. at the 24/F of OMM-Citra Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of May 17 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ABOITIZ Transport System Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 3 p.m. at the Manila A&B Function Rooms of Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Only stockholders of record as of May 14 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. disclosed the resignation of Eduardo Gana as director of the company following the full divestment of AIG Asian Infrastructure Fund L.P.'s shares in Piltel. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 14, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.846310	1.000000	55.9320
Japan	Yen	0.007387	0.008728	0.4882
United Kingdom	Pound	1.492045	1.763000	98.6081
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108510	0.128215	7.1713
Switzerland	Franc	0.649758	0.767754	42.9420
Canada	Dollar	0.607589	0.717927	40.1551
Singapore	Dollar	0.490074	0.579072	32.3887
Australia	Dollar	0.582698	0.688516	38.5101
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.244974	2.652661	148.3686
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225683	0.266667	14.9152
Brunei	Dollar	0.488660	0.577401	32.2952
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000111	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.020763	0.024534	1.3722
UAE	Dirham	0.230420	0.272264	15.2283
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.181600	66.0893
Argentina	Peso	0.290230	0.342936	19.1811
Brazil	Real	0.271601	0.320924	17.9499
Denmark	Kroner	0.134399	0.158806	8.8823
India	Rupee	0.018715	0.022114	1.2369
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222743	0.263193	14.7209
Mexico	New Peso	0.072801	0.086022	4.8114
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508477	0.600817	33.6049
Norway	Kroner	0.122343	0.144561	8.0856
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014672	0.017337	0.9697
South Africa	Rand	0.122751	0.145043	8.1125
Korea	Won	0.000714	0.000844	0.0472
Sweden	Kroner	0.109406	0.129274	7.2306
Syria	Pound	0.016338	0.019305	1.0798
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025323	[illegible]	[illegible]
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000442	[illegible]	[illegible]

Gov't warns oil firms against big price hikes

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy warned local oil firms against taking advantage of escalating prices of oil in the world market by implementing "unwarranted" increases in local pump prices.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself issued a directive to the DOE to closely monitor price increases that the oil companies would implement and ensure that these were not higher than necessary.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said in a statement yesterday that the DOE would mete out appropriate sanctions under the Oil Deregulation Law to firms that would take advantage of the skyrocketing world market prices.

"The DOE notes that the pressure to raise domestic pump prices is strong given prevailing circumstances, but I am strongly warning the oil companies not to take advantage of the situation. We urge them to only increase prices as necessary," he said.

New oil players, particularly members of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA), said pump prices of gasoline and diesel would go up by P1 to P1.25 a liter in the next few days, on Monday at the latest.

IPPCA chair Fernando Martinez said in an earlier interview that new oil players, all of which had no refineries here and only imported finished products, could no longer shoulder the high costs of petroleum products.

He said under-recoveries for gasoline was now at P2.69 a liter and diesel at P2.74 a liter, more than half the price increase that they wanted to implement over the weekend.

According to data from the DOE, international oil prices hit 13-year highs at $35.19 a barrel on May 13, due mainly to the continuing crisis in Iraq, rebounding economies all over the world and perceived low reserves in the United States.

In April, the benchmark Dubai crude was quoted at an average of $31.68 a barrel, 83 US cents higher than the $30.85-a-barrel average posted in March.

Diesel and unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) bellwether for finished products likewise soared to historical highs this month.

As of May 13, MOPS-based diesel had a month-to-date average of $45.18 a barrel. MOPS-based gasoline, on the other hand, was at a high $48.75 a barrel.

Unleaded gasoline hit a historical high of $50.65 a barrel on May 6.

Even the US benchmark New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) soared to $40-a-barrel levels last week. Prices there closed at $41.02 a barrel Thursday, another 13-year high.

OFW remittances . . .

From page B1

ly months of the year encouraged some OFWs to hold off remittances in anticipation of even higher exchange rates in the future. However, the peso depreciation bottomed in March as the market anticipated improved inflows not just from OFW remittances but from foreign investments in the second quarter.

In 2003, OFW inflows amounted to $7.64 billion, 6.3 percent better than its contribution a year ago.

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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 25, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 27, 2003
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2003
5. Approval of the 2003 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 27, 2003 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 26, 2004 will be entitled to notice of and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2004. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 20, 2004, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 5, 2004

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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2003 Mitsubishi Adventure GLX 2.5L (Plate # XGX -276), M/T, diesel engine, silver gray color, aircon, stereo. Selling Price: 650,000

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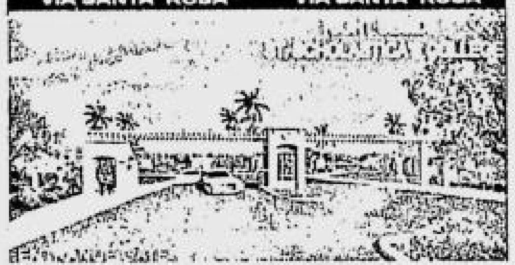

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Studio SAN ANDRES 5631584

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LOAN & MORTGAGE

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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CARS FOR RENT

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Q C BR 426-2278 • 426-4084
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G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested suppliers/manufacturers to participate in the bidding for the supply and delivery of various sizes of **Coupling Sleeve Type** and **Split Sleeve** as shown below:

No.	Qty.	Item/Description
A)	COUPLING (SLEEVE TYPE) for Steel Pipe	
1	4 pcs.	1000mm dia.to fit 1060mm dia. pipe
B)	MECHANICAL SPLIT SLEEVE for Ductil Iron (DI) and Cast Iron (CI) Pipe	
1	2 pcs.	1500mm dia. to fit O.D. of 1590mm dia. pipe
2	4 pcs.	1200mm dia.to fit O.D. of 1280mm dia. pipe
3	4 pcs.	1050mm dia. to fit O.D. of 1140mm dia. pipe
4	4 pcs.	500mm dia. to fit O.D. of 530mm dia. pipe
5	4pcs.	550mm dia. to fit O.D. of 570mm dia. pipe
6	4 pcs.	450mm dia. to fit O.D. of 480mm dia. pipe
7	4 pcs.	450mm dia. to fit O.D. of 492mm dia. pipe
8	4 pcs.	400mm dia. to fit O.D. of 430mm dia. pipe
9	4 pcs.	400mm dia. to fit O.D. of 448mm dia. pipe
10	4 pcs.	300mm dia. to fit O.D. of 480mm dia. pipe

As per MWSI Technical Specifications, Terms and Conditions
Section 32001, 00/26 Sept. 01 = DI Pipes and Fittings
Section 32002, 00/26 Sept. 01 = CI Pipes and Fittings

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Bldg., MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00)** in the form of Cash or Manager's Check payable to MWSI.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2% of the total bid amount.

Bid proposals shall be submitted to the Purchasing Department, on or before 3:00 p.m. of June 04, 2004 (Friday).

Any change in this bidding will be subject to the issuance of an Addendum to be issued by the Purchasing Department.

The MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any and all informalities therein and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - May 15 & 16 2004)

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•L300 VAN T Revo 9139185•

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco U Drive Coaster / Car Vans Rental 8023022-21

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262700

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

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(PDI-May 15, 2004)

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Asia stocks weak, crude prices off record high

SINGAPORE—Share prices fell across most Asian markets on Friday as record-high oil prices and the prospect of higher interest rates in the United States and China weighed on growth outlooks.

The dollar hit an eight-month high against the yen, pushed up by earlier Tokyo stock market falls and US economic data which firmed the market's view that the US will raise interest rates next month from their current 46-year low.

Oil prices were just below their record highs overnight, while gold fell by more than $2 an ounce. Bonds were flat.

Nasdaq 100 futures were off 0.07 percent, suggesting Wall Street would open a touch lower after the Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.34 percent on Thursday.

The Nikkei average closed up 0.23 percent at 10,849.63, after a late burst of buying, led by drug maker Sankyo and other firms with bright earnings outlooks.

Japan's broader TOPIX index shed 0.4 percent.

Sankyo ended up 2.45 percent after it forecast a 24 percent rise in current year profits, far more than analysts' estimates.

Analysts .had said investors were cautious ahead of the release of US consumer price data for April, which could give clues on the US Federal Reserve's next interest rate move.

Economists expect a 0.3 percent rise in April inflation after a 0.5 percent jump in March surprised markets and fueled talk of a June rate hike.

"Investors are nervous about a US rate hike, about when and by how much the Fed will raise... and a spike in the oil price is making the guessing even more difficult," said Yasuo Ueki, market analyst at consultancy Poko Financial Office in Tokyo.

Seoul's benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (Kospi) lost 2.74 percent despite easing political uncertainty after the impeachment of President Roh Moo-hyun was overturned.

At 0634 GMT, Bombay's main share index was down 3.2 percent as investors dumped shares of state-run firms and banks on worries that a new leftist-backed government may stall privatization.

The sell-off hit shares in candidates for state equity sales, such as Hindustan Petroleum Corp., National Aluminium Co. and Shipping Corp. of India.

"The fear is that privatization will definitely be hit," said Ravi Malani, equities sales dealer at IL&FS Investsmart.

An MSCI index of Asian markets beyond Japan was down 1.68 percent.

Shares in Singapore-based property firm, United Overseas Land Ltd. (UOL), jumped 5 percent after state investment agency Temasek Holdings raised its bid for the company.

At 0614 GMT, the euro was at $1.1828 from an earlier $1.1813. Against the Japanese yen , the dollar traded at 114.51, a touch below 114.55 yen late on Thursday, while the euro was flat at 135.42.

Crude oil prices have risen by around one quarter this year on concern over tight world supplies amid accelerating demand.

The surge in prices has fed worries that high energy costs would derail US corporate profits and consumer spending.

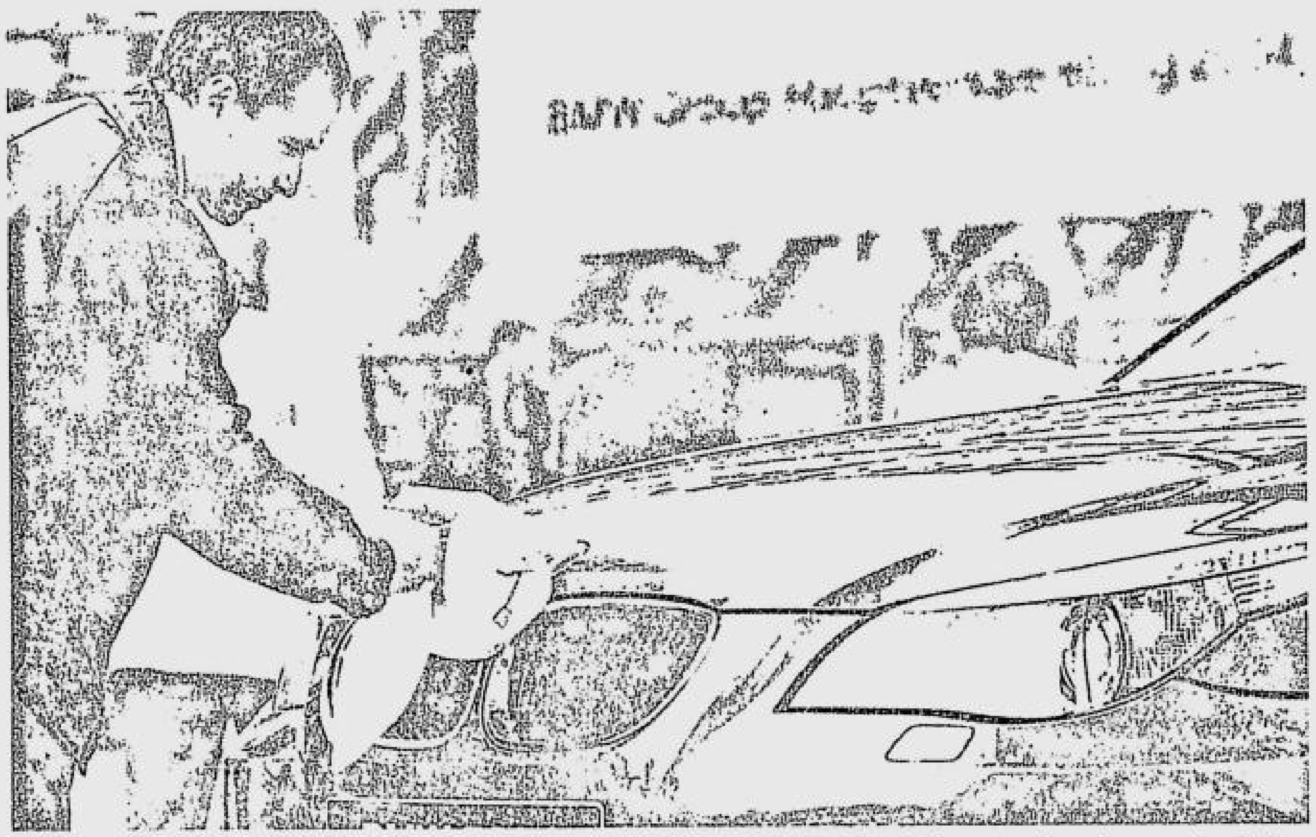
"We (have) got to a point in the economy where things will probably be less accommodating going forward, with a higher interest-rate environment, higher oil prices, tougher earnings comparisons, uncertainty around the (US presidential) election and geopolitical concerns in the Mideast," said Bill Strazzullo, vice president at State Street Global Markets in Boston.

June crude oil was at $40.97 a barrel, just shy of the record-high settlement of $41.08 in New York and subsequent after-hours all-time high of $41.17.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond (JGB) slipped to 1.495 percent from 1.500 percent.

Spot gold dropped to $374.25 from around $376 as the dollar gained on better US economic data.

Shares in Dell Inc., the world's leading personal computer maker, earlier fell over one dollar to $34.78 in extended Thursday trading, despite higher quarterly profit on improved corporate demand for new PCs and computer servers. *Reuters*



A BMW employee polishes the front of a BMW series 5 car in Munich, where the car is exposed on the occasion of the BMW general assembly. The German maker of luxury cars said it sold a total 101,313 vehicles in April, 10.3 percent more than a year ago, on the back of strong demand for its new X3 and 6 series models. Above-average growth was seen in Asia, but sales in western Europe also improved. AFP

Trade ministers to put WTO talks back on track

PARIS—Ministers from the world's most important trading nations gathered here on Thursday, hoping to revive stalled talks on a global trade accord threatened by wrangling over agriculture.

"Nearly half the year is gone," US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said in a speech at the French Senate. "We have yet to seize the opportunity that lies before us."

About 30 ministers from World Trade Organization countries were to meet Friday to work out differences that have so far prevented an agreement on the basics of a new trade deal.

The WTO's 147 members have set a July deadline to agree on a blueprint for a legally binding treaty to reduce import duties and other barriers to free trade.

Canadian Trade Minister Jim Peterson expressed optimism that the key issue of reducing agricultural tariffs could be sorted out.

"We have been able to deal with some other very knotty problems previously," Peterson told The Associated Press.

Most of the work on the deal is being done by diplomats and specialists at the WTO's Geneva headquarters, but negotiators see the Paris meeting as crucial because only ministers can approve the deal, which they will eventually have to sell to their voters.

The meeting of ministers from countries including the United States, Japan, China and India is to take place on the sidelines of a council meeting at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, based in Paris.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy upped the political pressure toward a deal earlier this week, saying that the 25-nation bloc was ready to consider scrapping all export subsidies on farm goods, but only if other industrialized nations do the same.

His statement received quick support from the United States and some other WTO members, but strong objections from EU member France, which receives the highest level of farm subsidies in the bloc.

Lamy said he was also prepared to "significantly reduce and if possible eliminate" all subsidies to cotton producers—a key demand of some of the poorest WTO nations, mostly in Africa. *AP*

US wholesale prices up 0.7%

WASHINGTON—US wholesale prices, stoked by higher costs for gasoline and food, registered their biggest rise in a year during April, providing fresh evidence that inflation is awakening after a long slumber.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that the Producer Price Index, which measures the prices of goods before they reach stores, rose by 0.7 percent last month, following a 0.5 percent gain in March.

"There's not an inflationary storm on the horizon, but there is definitely a cloudy inflationary sky," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. "Inflation is becoming a bit of a nuisance after being quite tame and basically a nonfactor for the past year or more."

April's increase was the largest since a 1.3 percent increase in March 2003 and topped the 0.3 percent advance that economists were forecasting. Sharply higher prices for energy and food were the culprits of the gauge's increase last month.

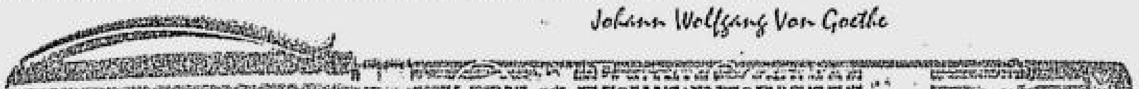
Excluding energy and food prices, the core rate of inflation rose in April by 0.2 percent for the second straight month, in line with analysts' expectations.

In other economic news, sales at retailers dropped by 0.5 percent in April after a 2 percent gain in March, the Commerce Department reported. April's performance suffered from a sharp drop in automobile sales.

Economists viewed the decline as a respite for shoppers because they splurged so much the month before. Analysts did not see the drop as a harbinger of drastic belt-tightening by consumers, whose spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of all economic activity.

Still, rising energy prices can crimp spending on other goods, a possible factor in April's sales decline and something that needs to be monitored, analysts said.

"When consumers are forced to pay more at the pump, it affects their spending in other categories," said Tracy Mullin, president of the National Retail Federation. *AP*



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Argentina asks for delay of IMF review mission

WASHINGTON—Argentina has requested a postponement of an International Monetary Fund mission to review the country's loan program as its government deals with debt restructuring negotiations, the IMF said on Thursday.

IMF spokesperson Thomas Dawson said the mission by IMF staff to evaluate Argentina's economic performance under a $13.3 billion loan program, due in mid-May, would now likely take place in June.

But he said this would not necessarily mean a delay in the third loan review.

"The delay of the mission was at the request of the Argentine authorities," IMF spokesperson Thomas Dawson said.

"It really reflects that the authorities are very busy now both with dealing with their debt issues, but also with getting an agreement within Argentina on some of the structural reform measures that are necessary," he added.

Argentina has been in talks since April with private creditors holding about $88 billion of Argentine debt in default since the country's economic crash in late 2001.

The IMF has said a debt agreement with creditors was vital to restore credibility in international credit markets, which is needed for the country's economic recovery.

Dawson said the postponement was not a surprise and "not highly critical."

"It doesn't mean that the review will be delayed but ... these things can be compressed somewhat and there is flexibility built (into the review schedule)," Dawson added.

It was too early to say if the next loan payment of about $715 million to the government, due after the IMF approves the review, would be delayed, he said. *Reuters*

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Jollibee makes its largest commitment ever.

The new commissary embodies JFC's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

To commemorate more than 25 years of serving the Filipino, Jollibee Foods Corporation celebrated its anniversary with more than just a party. The fastfood giant recently opened its new Jollibee Foods Corporation Commissary in Canlubang, Laguna. Operated by its subsidiary Zenith Foods Corporation, the 6-hectare mega facility is the largest and most modern in the country and definitely, among the largest of its kind in Asia. Almost fully automated, the new commissary utilizes the latest technology in food manufacturing, inventory management, warehousing and distribution. The entire facility has the capability to serve the needs of over 800 stores of the JFC network, particularly Jollibee and Greenwich. The new mega-commissary will be producing about 480,000 Yumburger patties, 150,000 pieces of Chickenjoy, 157,000 pies, 68,000 hotdogs and issuing 29 tons of French Fries on a daily basis.

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the opening ceremonies and together with the members of the Jollibee Commissary Management Committee.

Jollibee has come a long way from a sidewalk ice cream parlor to one of the country's most loved institutions.

With a total investment of P1.5 billion, this project is geared to provide more jobs in the area and neighboring cities.

"All glory comes from daring to begin." Jollibee Foods Corporation President and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong delivering his speech at the Canlubang Commissary inauguration.

Yum yum yum! The commissary makes sure that the Jollibee burger you buy in Cebu is exactly as delightful as the one you bought in Makati.

By employing more of the country's young workforce, the new facility will contribute considerably to the nation's business and economic growth. Thus, helping build the nation's stability all the more.

The Jollibee Foods Corporation Commissary at Canlubang:This is the company's response to the standards set by the past and the challenges posed by the future. This is the company's contribution to the country's drive towards being world-class and being globally competitive. This is Jollibee's proof of its commitment and passion to continually serve the Filipino customer better than ever before.

The new mega-facility ensures consistent product quality and improves productivity and efficiency.

"As a leader, Jollibee recognizes its responsibility in nation-building. This new commissary is in line with the administration's thrust to spur the economy, region by region, and thus enhance the country's overall economic picture." -- Tony Tan Caktiong

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Jollibee
FOODS CORPORATION

Department of Agrarian Reform
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project
(World Bank Assisted Project under IBRD Loan No. 7152 PH)

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP2), a World Bank assisted project being implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) with Central Project Office in Quezon City is in urgent need of qualified officers to occupy the following posts:

(1) MARKETING SPECIALIST

Engagement Period : 24 person months starting July 01, 2004

Duties and Responsibilities: The Marketing Specialist, reporting directly to the Agriculture & Enterprise Development (AED) Specialist, shall be part of the team directly responsible for developing the operational framework, implementation and management of the AED component of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP2) and Community-Managed Agrarian Reform & Poverty Reduction Program (CMARPRP). He/she shall

1. Develop and implement a technical assistance scheme for marketing in the ARCs thru the following:
    - 1.1 Facilitate the implementation of a sustainable marketing program in the Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) in conjuction with the Local Government Units (LGU) and other stakeholders;
    - 1.2 Establish Marketing Information System for the ARCs;
    - 1.3 Assist in the review of the ARC Comprehensive Development Plan in tandem with other ARCDP2 Specialists;
2. Link ARCs with markets, investors and business advisory resource organization;
3. Formulate and implement a resource mobilization strategy to support the implementation of a sustainable marketing program for the covered communities of the projects;
4. Identify training needs and design a marketing training program for agro-industrial enterprise development;
5. Assist in the refinement of the Comprehensive ARC Development Plans of participating ARCs for possible integration of enterprise activities with other ARCs and People's Organizations in nearby areas. Together with the other Specialists at the Central Project Office, formulate the Agriculture and Enterprise Development (AED) Strategic Plan per ARC, evaluate the plan periodically to identify production, enterprise and other income generating opportunities that can be feasibly undertaken by the beneficiaries with their POs as related to sources of funds, time frame, and infrastructure support for irrigation, road access and potable water supply and capacity building needs. It should also include the evaluation and inclusion of commercial scale business by identifying market outlets and packaging proposals for external financing;
6. Assist in the establishment of a database for marketing and for the monitoring and evaluation system of the component.

Minimum Qualification Requirements: The Marketing Specialist should have at least 5 years experience in Marketing Management as related to Rural Development. Experience with rural based People's Organizations, cooperatives and LGUs would be an advantage. Minimum educational qualification is Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business, Agri-Business. The position requires extensive travel and work in the provinces and ARCs. A graduate school degree in Business, Agri-Business and other related field would be an advantage.

(1) AGRICULTURE & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Engagement Period : 24 person months starting July 01, 2004

Duties and Responsibilities: The Agriculture & Enterprise Development (AED) Technical Advisor will report directly to the Agriculture & Enterprise Development Specialist and shall work closely with other project staff. He/she would facilitate the implementation of the ARCDP2 and CMARP in accordance with the Operations Manual and the Project Implementation Plan, particularly in the promotion, preparation, and operation of income generating activities within the respective ARCs and ensure that all aspects of the projects are effectively implemented. He/she will be tasked to:

1 Oversee all aspects of project implementation at the provincial and municipal levels and provide guidance to staff in the provinces;
2 Be actively involved in the ARC planning process, in particular acting as a resource person to explain the economic focus of the project and to organize training needs assessment and provision of trainings to the members and leaders of the ARCs on matters related to the potential feasibility of their priority activities, including assessment of community capability for contribution to project activities;
3. Assist the provincial project office staff in providing direct business advice to ARCs and their POs on the opportunities available to them as indicated in the Comprehensive ARC Development Plan, their proposed and current economic activities, conduct feasibility estimates on both small and medium-scale enterprises, and assist People's Organizations (POs) in the preparation of business proposals for the purpose of obtaining funds from financing institutions;
4. Assist in assessing training needs for PO members and their leaders, identifying suitable resource organizations for agriculture and business development and organizing training programs;
5. Assess marketing linkages for ARC prime commodities and other potential products, facilitating marketing linkages among potential buyers and the ARCs.

Minimum Qualification Requirements: The AED Technical Advisor should have at least 5 years experience in agricultural and AED field and preferably in private sector management. Experience with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), rural based People's Organizations (POs), cooperatives and LGUs would be an advantage. Minimum educational qualification is Bachelors Degree in Agriculture, Economics or Business. The position requires extensive travel and work in the provinces and ARCs.

(2) RURAL FINANCE SPECIALIST

Engagement Period : 24 person months starting July 01, 2004

Duties and Responsibilities: The Rural Finance Specialist shall organize and facilitate the provision of financial services to ARC cooperatives and their members and ARC households who are not cooperative members by Financing Institutions (FIs) and Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) for the implementation of feasible agricultural and enterprise development. Specifically, he/she will be tasked to:

1. Formulate and/or improve the system for assessing the organizational maturity and qualifications of cooperatives in the target ARCs vis-à-vis the accreditation requirements or eligibility criteria of financing institutions and micro-finance organizations;
2. Review the status of all the cooperatives in the project areas, identify those that do not meet the FIs/MFIs accreditation criteria, identify reasons of each unaccredited coop and work out a prioritized action plan to accreditation with the respective coop.
3. Prepare guidelines for the preparation of action plans to address the accreditation/eligibility deficiencies of cooperatives and extend advisory services to cooperatives for the implementation of strategic actions related to credit restructuring, documentation requirements, packaging and presentation of credit proposals;
4. Identify the unaccredited coops that need to be merged or expanded to increase equity, savings and provide them with intensive training;
5. Identify coops that are in default and need to solve past due loans and identify potential resource organizations capable to provide training for strengthening and implementation of rehabilitation program developed with the respective coop.
6. Assist in assessing training needs for People's Organizations (POs) and/or Cooperative members and their leaders and in identifying potential institutions that are interested in providing training and institutional strengthening tailored to the needs of the POs/cooperative. The training given must aim to enhance leadership and upgrading business skills, mobilization of cooperative internal financial resources and management of loan portfolio and training of based economies for potential entrepreneurial activities.
7. Assist People's Organizations (POs) and Cooperatives within the ARC in the preparation of viable sub-projects and matching of their outputs with appropriate market outlets and in developing a good understanding and working relationship with local Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and Financial Institutions (FIs) to enable project beneficiaries to tap the needed financial resources from other rural FIs, whether rural banks, cooperative rural banks, and NGOs.
8 Identify interested Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) operating in the project areas and establish linkages with existing micro-finance institutions and prepare the guidelines for the institutionalization of partnership between the DAR and MFIs;
9. Facilitate the establishment of revolving funds by the MFIs and ensure that a micro-finance facility would be made available to the project's individual beneficiaries who are not members of cooperatives for their non-farm activities which would contribute to the increase of beneficiaries income and diversification of its sources;
10. Facilitate the development of commercial relationships between the MFIs and project beneficiaries as well as supervise the MFI activities with project beneficiaries;
11. Assist in assessing training needs for capacity building of community members and organizing suitable training programs.

Minimum Qualification Requirements: The Rural Finance Specialist should have at least 5 years experience at national level with range of credit programs, including the formal banking sector and the cooperative sector. If possible, the consultant should have up-to-date knowledge of most of the current lending programs already available to cooperatives. The consultants should likewise have a good knowledge of MFI operations as well as Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) characteristics

(1) PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

Engagement Period : 24 person months starting July 01, 2004

Duties and Responsibilities: The Procurement Specialist would be responsible for the correct and timely application of procurement policies and procedures in accordance with the World Bank and GOP guidelines. He/she will be tasked to:

1 Review and implement procurement systems, policies and procedures inclusive of procurement M & E system. Initiate introduction of the same at all administrative levels;
2 Supervise the procurement functions of the Central and Provincial Project Offices of DAR including NIA, BSWM and LGUs to ensure correct application of procurement policies and procedures
3. Assess the training needs of the procurement staff at all levels of project administration. Assist in the design and conduct of procurement training for the staff of the CPO and PPOs of DAR, NIA central and field offices, BSWM central and regional offices and the Local Government Units (Municipal) so that they are clearly aware of the procurement guidelines of the World Bank and of the Government (R.A. 9184).
4. Ensure that procurement of goods, works and services under the project conform with the requirements of the World Bank and the Government;
5. Occasionally attend pre-bid conferences and observe public bidding of subprojects as scheduled by the implementing units, review bid evaluation results as submitted and facilitate the issuance of 'no objection' from the World Bank whenever required;
6 Make timely preparation for procurement review and ensure project's compliance with the World Bank procurement review (prior and ex-post) requirements

Minimum Qualification Requirements: The Procurement Specialist would have at least 8 years experience in procurement management, with a minimum of 5 years at managerial level. He/she would have experience of working in World Bank financed projects. The Procurement Specialist must be ready to spend at least 40% of his/her time visiting the LGUs and field offices of NIA

Only applicants who meet the above minimum qualification requirements may apply and submit three copies of comprehensive resumé with photocopy of diploma and recent 2x2 photo, postmarked not later than May 31, 2004 to:

The Chief Technical Advisor
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project
4/F FAPSO Building, DAR Compound
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

(Sgd.) **HERMINIA FE B. SAN JUAN**
OIC Executive Director
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office

Grandest Mid-year Business Fair & Selling Exhibit set in SM Megamall

AIMING to provide assistance to small and medium enterprise, SM Megatrade Hall has launched its "Fil-Negosyo Expo 2004" – the longest and grandest selling and promotion exhibit in SM Megamall on June 11-20, 2004 in Megatrade Hall 2, with free admission to the public.

The event offers a very affordable exhibit venue to different SME's in categories such as arts & crafts, home furnishing, furniture food and food related products, native delicacies, gifts, toys & novelties garments and fashion accessories, business services franchising companies, garden related products, and regional products.

For the visitors, the event offers series of daily activities such as business opportunity seminars and workshops, product demos, product sampling, pet show including Bird Show of Philippine Avicultural Federation, group discussions on health & business, parenthood, finance matters, feng shui tips, networking sessions, from different sponsors & supporting organizations. Various raffle prizes await the lucky visitors.

This event is sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Times Foreign Post, Peso Saver & I – FM. Cooperating agencies include TLRC and other government agencies and foundations.

For details on exhibit participation and activity seat reservations contact EX-LINK Mgmt. & Mktg. Services: 6433887 / 0920-9242532 / 0919-8717872 / 0919-8017099 / 0919-8730581; email: ex_link2001@yahoo.com / megatrade@smsupermalls.com.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications from qualified Philippine private voluntary organizations, non-governmental organizations, not-for-profit organizations and academic institutions or organizations to implement an institutional grant development program to support USAID/Philippines Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): Governance of Economic and legal systems improved through a program entitled Targeted Intervention in Economic Reform and Governance (TIERG) Project. **For-profit Philippine organizations may also submit applications, however, they will not be entitled to receive a fee or profit for this activity.** USAID reserves the right to award more than one application if it is determined to be in USAID's interest to do so.

For the full description of the program and details on how and where to submit the applications, please visit USAID/Philippines website at http://www:usaid-ph.gov or call the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines at 552-9800 extensions 9923 or 9924.

(PDI–May 8, 9, 15 & 16, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
- - - - - oOo - - - - -

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for ELIGIBILITY and to submit BID PROPOSALS for the supply and delivery of the following:

Adv. No.	Description	Requisitioner	Funding	ABC (In Pesos)
1. 095	a) Repeater UHF System (5 sets)	Provincial Governor	LGSEF	1,350,000.00
	b) UHF Base Radio Transceiver (10 sets)			580,000.00
	c) Handheld Radio Transceiver (162 units)			2,835,000.00
2. 097	Military Jeep 4 WD, 4DR5 or 4DR6 engine (12 units)	Provincial Governor	LGSEF	2,640,000.00
4. 098	Ambulance, 4DR6 engine (10 units)	Provincial Governor	LGSEF	2,300,000.00

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23.6 of the approved IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Eligibility requirements, complete specifications of the subject items and Bid Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office, DepEd Building, Capitol, Cebu City, within the government prescribed office hours, starting on May 14, 2004, Friday, upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos Only (Php 100.00) per project.

For purposes of clarifying matters, a Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on May 27, 2004, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the BAC Conference Room, PGSO, Dep-Ed Building, Capitol, Cebu City.

Sealed envelopes containing the duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be received by the BAC Secretariat at the above-mentioned address not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning, June 8, 2004, Tuesday, and shall be publicly opened thereafter.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying, responsive and most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please call the Office of the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Nos. 253-9614 or 253-3995.

These requirements are posted at the BAC Bulletin Board, PGSO, DepEd Building, Capitol, Cebu City.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI – May 15 & 20, 2004)

URGENT NEED!!

1 – OFFICE SECRETARY

- At least three (3) years experience
- With pleasing personality and not more than 30 years old
- Computer literate and knowledge in Accounting works
- Fluent in English language
- Residing within Mandaluyong or Makati area
- Willing to work under pressure

Interested applicants must report and bring comprehensive resumé and valid credentials on Monday & Tuesday (May 17-18, 2004) at

JOOSUNG Electrical Construction Corporation
Unit 2C Vicencio Condo., 284 Sto. Rosario St., Mandaluyong City
Tel Nos. 533 7305/533 7288 and look for Mr. Alain

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

The ABC's of Entrepreneurship

THE Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines (ESP) and the Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE) will be hosting the ABC's of Entrepreneurship seminar on June 30, 2003 Monday at Senden Hall, Asian Social Institute 1518 Leon Guinto corner Escoda St., Malate Manila.

The seminar aims to explore the basics of entrepreneurship in a systematic way starting from discovering and developing the market needs, creating the tactics and strategies for the 4 Ps, financing the venture without difficulty, and managing effectively the start-up business.

The learning session is focused on helping participants on how get started on their business journey with enhanced success through the use of simple business language and easy to digest practical step-by-step guides. More so, the seminar will stimulate creative thinking and propagate Pinoy Brand of Entrepreneurship.

The registration fee is P500 inclusive of Snakes and Handout Materials. A Certificate of Participation will be given to those who will attend the entire seminar.

Registration: please contact Center For Small Entrepreneurs Tel. No. 525-6268, 523-9776 Email cse@pacific.net.ph or Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines Tel. No. 726-5466 Email acephil@vasia.com.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase/Lease* on an *"As Is - Where Is"* basis, the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
I. FIRST OFFERING			
001	1,875 sq.m. portion of Commercial Lot 6203-C	Dasmariñas Bagong Bayan, Area B Cavite	PhP6,000.00/sq.m. or Php 11,256,000.00
002-018	17 Commercial Lots, areas ranging from 163 sq.m. to 241 sq.m.	Dasmariñas Bagong Bayan, Congressional Avenue, South, Brgy. Fatima, Dasmariñas, Bagong Bayan, Cavite	PhP4,500.00/sq.m. to PhP5,000.00/sq.m.
019-046	28 Commercial Lots, areas ranging from 283 sq.m. to 496 sq.m. With titles	NHA-Zamboanga Teachers Village, Brgy Cabaluay, Zamboanga City	Php1,100.00/sq.m. to PhP1,200.00/sq.m.
II. SECOND OFFERING			
047-048	2 Commercial Lots, 318 sq.m. & 738 sq.m. With titles	Phase II, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	PhP10,000.00/sq.m. & Php15,000.00/sq.m.
049-072	24 Commercial Lots, lot sizes ranging from 240 sq.m. to 324 sq.m. With titles	Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Brgy. Tuburan, Ligao City Albay	PhP1,540/sq.m. to PhP1,700/sq.m.
073	7,170 sq.m. titled commercial lot	Sea Breeze Homes Brgy. Sip-Ac, Sorsogon City	PhP800/sq.m. or PhP5,736,000.00
III. BEST OFFER			
074-075	2 Institutional lots, 496 sq.m. & 613 sq.m.	General Mariano Alvarez (GMA) Cavite	PhP1,500.00/sq.m. or PhP8.75/sq.m./mo

Terms of payment for the above-cited properties are:

Sale: Minimum of Ten Percent (10%) deposit. Options for repayment period are Cash, Modified Cash (Six (6) equal installments without interest) and Installment for a maximum period of Ten (10) years with graduated interested rates

Lease: Two (2) months deposit and One (1) month advance or One (1) year advance rental; Lease term shall be Fifteen (15) years, renewable for another Five (5) years at the option of NHA.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED), Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City

Bidding Materials can also be secured from the ff. Project Offices:

For Bicol properties: NHA Ligao Project Office, 2nd Floor, Quililan Bldg., Ligao City, Albay. Contact Person: Engr. Albert A. Perfecto. Tel. No. 052-4851626.

For Zamboanga properties: NHA Zamboanga Project Office, Go Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City. Contact Person: Engr. Rolando Teves, Jr. Tel. No. 062-9925516.

For further inquiry, please contact the following persons: Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms. Neri A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 926-4561 local 263 & 264.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC BIDDING	BICOL	PASIG/DASMARIÑAS	ZAMBOANGA
A Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	May 17 to 26, '04 Office Hours, NHA Ligao Proj. Office	May 24 to June 2, '04 Office Hours, CIED-NHA Bldg. Elliptical Road, Q.C.	June 15 to June 21, '04 Office Hours NHA Zamboanga Proj. Office
B Pre-Bid Conference	May 26, '04 10:00 AM NHA Ligao Proj. Office	June 2, '04, 10:00 AM Operations Center 3rd Flr., NHA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Q.C.	June 21, '04, 10:00 AM NHA Zamboanga Proj. Office
C Submission of Sealed Bids	May 28, '04, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM NHA Ligao Proj. Office	June 4, '04, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN Operations Center	June 23, '04 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM NHA Zamboanga Proj. Office
D Opening of Sealed Bids	May 28, '04, 10:15 AM NHA Ligao Proj. Office	June 4, '04, 1:30 PM Operations Center	June 23, '04, 10:15 AM NHA Zamboanga Proj. Office

Best Offers for GMA properties shall be submitted to CIED from date of publication of this Notice. The offer/s should contain the proposed selling price/lease rate and payment scheme.

The Authority reserves the right to *reject* any or all offers or any part thereof or to *waive* any required formalities and *accept* offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI - May 15 & 22, 2004)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
PDIC Extension Office, SSS Bldg., 6782 Ayala Ave.,
cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4000; Fax No. 841-4930; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph
Email: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE OUTSOURCING OF PDIC'S BANK LIQUIDATION FUNCTIONS

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), as Liquidator of closed banks, is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the outsourcing of PDIC's liquidation functions in seven (7) closed banks, with an approved budget for management fee (before tax) in the amount of P600,000.00 per year for four (4) years for each of the two (2) thrift banks, and P240,000.00 per year for two (2) years for each of the five (5) rural banks exclusive of success fees from recoveries. Said amounts shall be sourced from the funds of the respective closed bank.

The hereunder schedule shall be followed:

Initial briefing of prospective bidders	May 21, 2004
Submission of eligibility requirements and evaluation	May 27, 2004
Notification of eligible bidders	May 31, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	June 2, 2004
Submission of Bids	June 28, 2004

The Eligibility documents shall be made available for a non refundable fee of P300.00 from May 11 to 21, 2004, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), PDIC Extension Office, 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Ave., corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

Criteria for eligibility check shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis.

The eligibility of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules & Regulations. The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

- must have been in existence for at least one year with majority of its key personnel having at least five (5) years experience in any field of asset management/recovery and disposal, banking and finance, corporate rehabilitations and/or insolvency, financial forensic investigation and related fields.
- must have the necessary staff (at least one lawyer, and an accountant or experienced officer of a commercial, thrift or rural bank with a rank of at least Manager or its equivalent) and financial resources (minimum paid up capital of P500,000.00) to undertake the scope of work effectively and efficiently.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract, to waive any informality or minor defect, to annul the bidding process at anytime prior to awarding of the contract, and accept the offer most advantageous to the PDIC, without thereby incurring any liability for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-May 15, 2004)

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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

MILAGROS SANTIAGO-SIMMONS

of Ann Arbor, Michigan (formerly from Tarlac City)

peacefully joined her Creator on May 11, 2004
at the age of 64.

She is survived by her husband, Curtis Simmons, brothers Alexis and Josephine Santiago, Ramon and Dada Santiago, and Jose and Lucille Santiago, and nieces and nephews Jocelyn Paula, Maria Charina and Matthew Cerizo, Janella Joyce, Alexander Delfin, Daniel Nicholas, Maria Carmina, Marisa Cristina, and Ramon Jose Delfin and grand nephew Sean Cerizo.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, May 17, 2004 at St. Francis Catholic Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.

PAULITA BIRCO TIQUI

Peacefully joined her Creator
and her loving husband Capt. Benjamin L. Tiqui
8:15 p.m. on May 13, 2004 at the age of 76.

She is dearly missed by her loving children and their families: **CAROL, VINCE, CARL & ERIC; MATTHEW, JODEL** and **KEVIN; LOREN, GLEN, PEBBLES** and **JAMIE**; her sisters: **CHING, LILY, MINTA & LODY**; her brother **PHILLIP** and their families.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, at Love Chapel.

Interment will be on Friday, 21st of May at 10:00 Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

MARIA PENGSON RAMOS MENDOZA

Peacefully joined the Lord on May 13, 2004 at the age of 64.

Her husband, **Rogelio**
Children **Mel**, **Ricky** and **Cel**
Brothers **Manuel Jr.**, **Glicerio** and **Vicente**
Daughters- and Sisters-in-Law
Grandchildren

Request you to join us in celebrating her coming home to the Lord.
Her remains lie in state at Premiere Suite 2 (3rd Floor), Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.
Interment will be on May 18, 2004, after the 9 a.m. Mass, at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

GIL CAYMAN VILLAFLOR

of San Antonio, Nueva Ecija and Diamond Bar, California, USA

Joined his Creator on Tuesday, May 11, 2004
at the age of 71.

HELE, as he was fondly called, was survived by his loving wife **Pacita**; daughter **Elna**, son-in-law **Ernie**, grandson **Alan Duane** (of Diamond Bar, CA); son **Glenn**, daughter-in-law **Lily**, grandchildren **Citadel**; **Gladwyn** & spouse **Bing** and **Sheryl** & spouse **Zaldy**; greatgrand daughters **Agatha** & **Sheila May**; sister **Virginia**; stepchildren and their spouses **Cynthia** & **Alfonso**, **Armando** & **Gloria** and **Elvie** & **Jun**; step grandchildren **Carol** (of Los Angeles), **Rachel** (of London), **Jeffrey**, **Erick**, **Ivee** & spouse **Dennis**, **Sherlline** and **Jio Mandy**; and step greatgrand daughters **Nikki** & **Lian**.
His remains lie in state at his residence in San Mariano West, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 16, 2004
10:00 a.m. at the San Antonio Cemetery.

Please pray to the Lord for the eternal repose of his soul.

MANUEL E. SORIANO

Died in the Peace of the Lord on May 13, 2004
in Mountainview, California
at the age of 58.

His loving parents **Lazaro** (†) and **Consuelo**; daughters **Melissa** and **Joanna**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Oscar** and **Anna**, **Jose** and **Nonette**, **Antonio** and **Ollie**, **Andres** and **Mila**, **Angel** and **Gigi**; sister **Mariquit**; nephews and nieces; relatives, friends and classmates at Letran College, Ateneo de Manila and University of Sta. Clara request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Lima Mortuary in Sunnyvale, California. Daily vigil is scheduled at 9:00 o'clock in the morning to 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Cremation and interment will be announced later.

"Whenever
I am afraid,
I will trust in you."
Psalm 56:3

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
① Copy of Death Certificate
② Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

On the Occasion of the Birthday
and 25th Death Anniversary of

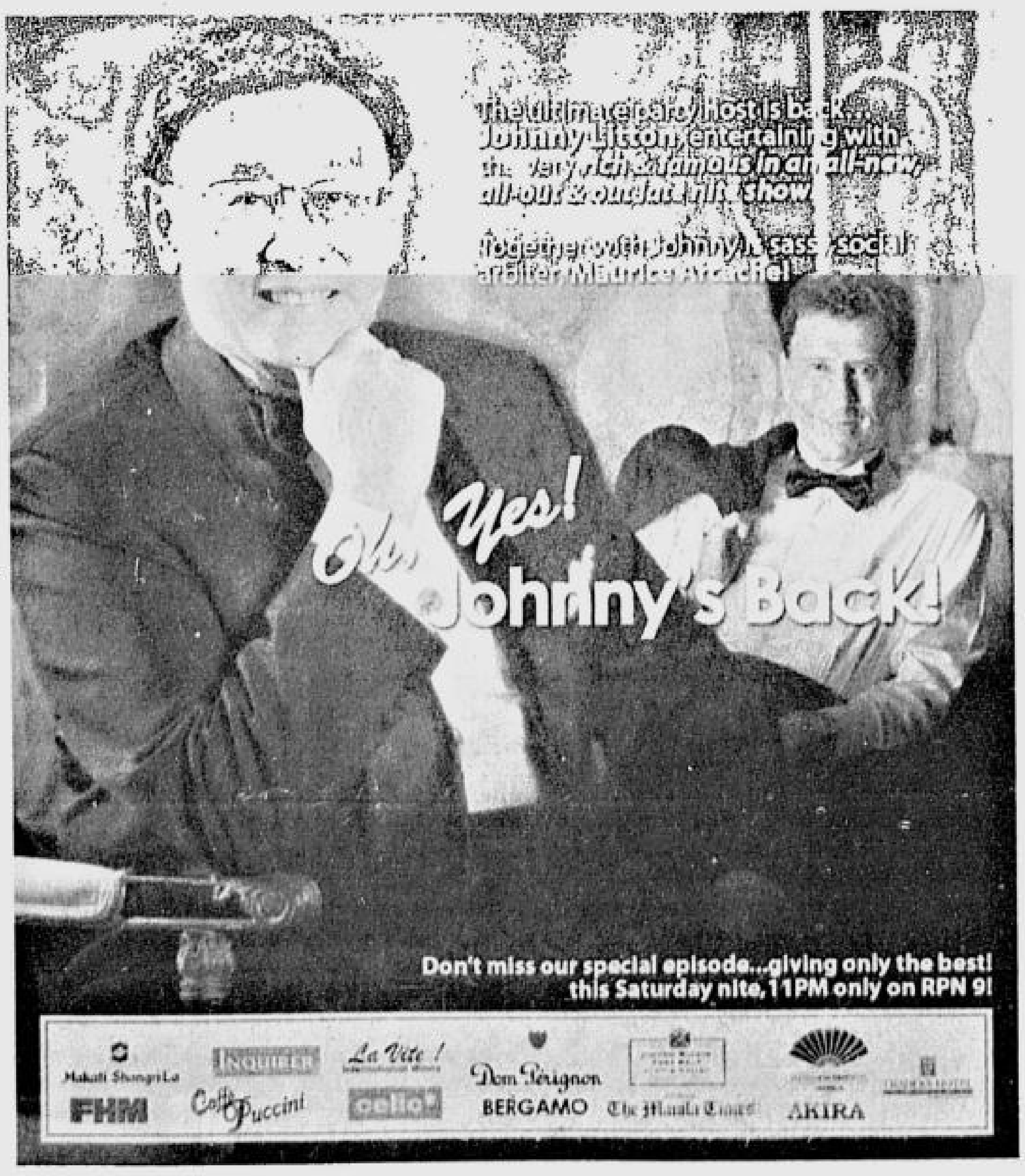
VINCENT L. RECTO

Today, May 15, 2004

Masses will be offered in the following churches:

1.	Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati	7:30 am, 12:00 noon 4:30 & 6:00 pm
2.	St. Alphonsus de Liquori Church Magallanes Village, Makati	7:00 am 6:00 & 7:00 pm
3.	St. John Bosco Parish Arnaiz Avenue, Makati	7:30 am, 6:00 pm
4.	AIM Chapel Paseo de Roxas, Makati	6:00 pm

CLASSIFIEDS


The ultimate party host is back... Johnny Litton, entertaining with the very rich & famous in an all-new, all-out & outlandish show!
Together with Johnny is sassy social arbiter Maurice Arcache!
Oh, Yes! Johnny's Back!
Don't miss our special episode...giving only the best! this Saturday nite, 11PM only on RPN 9!
Makati Shangri-La
Inquirer
La Vite!
Dom Pérignon
FHM
Caffe Puccini
cello
BERGAMO
The Manila Times
AKIRA

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF PHILIPPINE FARMERS BANK, INC. RURAL BANK OF ALBUERA, RURAL BANK OF HIMAMAYLAN AND RURAL BANK OF CATBALOGAN

Notice is hereby given to all stockholders of Philippine Farmers Bank, Inc., Rural Bank of Albuera, Rural Bank of Himamaylan and Rural Bank of Catbalogan that the merger of these four banks has been approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas per Monetary Board Resolution No 304 dated 11 March 2004 making Philippine Farmers Bank, Inc. as the surviving entity.

Likewise, registration and submission of proper documents as required by the Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission is being processed.

Valencia City, May 13, 2004.

(Sgd.) MARIA VICTORIA P. CASING
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – May 15, 2004)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

NATIONAL
FOOD
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority in Region VII, with its official address at Banilad, Cebu City, is inviting all interested qualified sack manufacturers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following empty sack (MTS) requirements for Visayas and Mindanao areas:

MTS Type	No. of Pieces	Approved Budget for the Contract
1. Procurement MTS	600,000 maximum	4,418,400.00
2. Rice Milling MTS	500,000 maximum	3,086,000.00

Summary of Bidding Procedures:

The Bidding shall be governed by RA 9184. A single stage Two Envelope System of evaluation will be adopted. Envelope A shall contain the eligibility requirements as specified in the Instruction to Bidders which will be evaluated in a non-discretionary "Pass" or "Fail" criteria. Only those who complied with all the requirements shall be declared "Eligible" and shall proceed to the next phase which is the opening of Envelope B. Envelope B shall contain the accomplished and signed Bid Form.

Bids will be ranked from lowest to highest to determine the Lowest Calculated Bid. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall undergo post qualification by the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) to verify, validate and ascertain statements made and documents submitted in the eligibility requirements. After which, the bidder shall be declared "Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid" and shall be recommended for awarding of the contract.

Schedule of Activities:

Activity	Date/s	Time
Issuance of Bidding Documents	May 12-17, 2004	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-Bidding Conference	May 19, 2004	10:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bids	May 31, 2004	10:00 AM

Interested bidders may secure the bidding documents from the RBAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NFA, Region VII, Cebu City upon submission of a letter of intent and after payment of a non-transferable, non-refundable application fee of P5,000.00. Bidders or their authorized representatives are required to be present during the opening of sealed bids. For further inquiries, you may call the undersigned at the following numbers: (032) 232-1939 or (032) 232 6832.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any informality or defect found therein, and to accept bids which are deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Assistant Regional Director
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - May 12 & 15 2004)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Banking baby's blood can save lives

By Rebecca B. Singson, MD
Contributor

OVER THE LAST 30 years, bone marrow transplants have saved thousands of people afflicted with a wide range of blood disorders such as leukemia and aplastic anemia, and some immune system diseases and genetic disorders.

Then in the 1970s, it was found out that the umbilical cord blood contained the same kind of stem as that in bone marrow, with concentrations nearly 10 times greater. Because stem cells were already being used successfully to treat patients with life-threatening blood diseases, researchers believed they could also use stem cells from cord blood to save patients.

The first human umbilical cord blood stem cell transplant was achieved in 1988 in a 5-year-old boy suffering from Fanconi's anemia. Ten years later, the boy was still alive and seemed cured. Because of this and other successful transplants, doctors and medical researchers began to collect, freeze and store cord blood units.

DR. SINGSON prepares the harvesting of umbilical cord blood for banking.
MANDY NAVASERO

Perfect match

Research have found that cord blood, which is usually thrown away along with the placenta after delivery, is a rich source of stem cells which can produce other types of healthy blood cells—red, white and platelets—to replace diseased ones.

In case the child, a sibling or even a parent develops some cancer or blood disorder, the stored sample provides a perfect match for stem cell therapy of the child, and a reasonable chance of a match for the sibling or parent.

Unlike bone marrow donation where the donor must be anesthesized and is exposed to risk of infection, harvesting umbilical cord blood poses no risk to mother or child.

Advantages

Umbilical cord blood can be stored in cryogenic freezers, ready for use when needed. Bone marrow transplant, on the other hand, requires the donor to be around, and the process of contacting and testing bone marrow donors takes weeks.

Umbilical cord blood stem cell therapy is therefore less costly. Furthermore, cord blood is rarely contaminated by viruses often found in marrow.

More importantly, because stem cells in cord blood are more primitive than those in bone marrow, there is a much lower incidence of rejection by the recipient of the transplanted stem cells. This makes it possible to perform transplants with less-than-perfect matches of type.

Blood from the umbilical vein can be collected when the baby has been delivered and the umbilical cord clamped and cut. They are are placed in containers, ready to be air-flown to the country where the cord blood bank is. (Right now, no laboratory in the Philippines is equipped for this service so we have to send the blood to foreign cord banks.)

Future directions

Several teams are looking into how stem cells in a cord blood unit can be stimulated to grow additional cells before infusing them into a patient. Currently, the number of stem cells banked from one baby's umbilical cord can be used for stem cell therapy for an adult weighing up to 110 lbs.

If science could find a way to coax the stem cells into replicating themselves in the lab, it could be made available to more than one member of the family as a form of medical insurance.

Stem cell research has shown promise in the following fields:

Diabetes. Researchers have generated insulin expressing cells from mouse stem cells. It may be possible in the near future to provide a stem cell-based therapy to treat diabetes to replace the constant need for insulin injections.

Skin replacement. It is now possible for scientists to grow skin from a patient's plucked hair where stem cells are found. These cells can be cultured and are at present being tried as an alternative to surgical grafts for venous ulcers and burn victims.

Brain cell transplantation. Potential targets of neural stem cell transplants include stroke, spinal cord injury and neurodegenarative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

Heart disease. The production of cardiac muscle cells will hold tremendous promise for heart disease. Several cases of cardiac muscle cell transplants have already been performed to regenerate diseased muscle cells of heart attack victims and even to save the life of an accident victim whose heart was punctured by a metal rod.

(The author is a fellow of the Obstetrics and Gynecologic Society and Philippine Society of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy.)

Lessons from a Nobel winner

(Conclusion)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

NOBEL Prize physicist Murray Gell-Mann not only contributed significantly to our knowledge of the atomic world, he also popularized science through his book "The Quark and the Jaguar." Here are three more lessons from his life which we can apply to our own. The quotes are taken from John Brockman's interview with him in Edge last year.

Lesson No. 5: Seize the chance to work with great mentors.

Gell-Mann went to MIT for postgraduate studies and taught there for a while, but then shifted to Caltech, mostly out of a desire to work with Nobel winner Feynman.

"He was quite impressed with some of the work I had done. One research project concerned what is now called the renormalization group. Francis Low and I completed that work during the hot summer of 1953 at the University of Illinois. Dick said this was the only piece of research on quantum electrodynamics that came as a surprise to him. He got quite excited about it and actually extended the results a bit.

"Interestingly, the renormalization group approach revealed errors in a number of calculations that people had made previously. Years later, my student Ken Wilson applied renormalization group ideas to condensed matter physics, in brilliant research that won him an unshared Nobel Prize.

"Another discovery that impressed Dick concerned the neutral kaon situation, in which there are two states. One linear combination of those states is involved in the production of the neutral kaon particles, and another linear combination is involved in their disintegration. It's a beautiful example of quantum mechanics at work."

Encounters with Einstein

Corollary to Lesson No. 5: Do not be too shy to approach legendary figures.

In 1951, Gell-Mann was a postdoc at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and he often bumped into Albert Einstein.

"I could have spoken with him but at that time I didn't like the kind of people who approached great figures, introduced themselves, got into conversation with them, and reported the experience to others, saying 'I know Einstein,' and so on. So I didn't approach him.

"Today, I would almost certainly behave differently, asking the old man about his thoughts years ago when he was carrying out the greatest physics research since Newton's. It would have been exciting.

"Instead, in 1951, I said 'Good morning' occasionally and Einstein would answer with 'Guten morning' or something of the kind, but that was it.

"At the time, Einstein was working on his attempt to construct a unified field theory. The general idea of seeking such a theory was of course an excellent one, but the way he was going about the work clearly doomed it to failure. He didn't believe in quantum mechanics, and so his theory was purely classical. He didn't introduce elementary particles like the electron, hoping that they would somehow emerge from his equations. Also, he included only the electromagnetic and gravitational fields, omitting all the other forces of nature, such as the strong and weak interactions.

"If he had been working on something that looked promising, that would have given me a perfectly legitimate reason to talk with him, and I would certainly have done so. But at that time, asking him about his life and his attitudes toward the world and toward physics was not something I felt comfortable doing. Nowadays, I would most likely not let such an opportunity go."

False 'science'

Lesson No. 6: Pseudo-science is not science.

Because quantum physics is mysterious and seemingly ethereal, several parallels between this subject and mysticism have been put forth in best-selling works such as "The Dancing Wu-Li Masters." However engaging these books may be, the conclusions drawn are not the ones intended by the scientists; aside from being frivolous, they are erroneous as well.

"One project I worked on at Caltech involved trying to understand the approximate symmetries of the elementary particle system—particularly the hadrons or strongly interacting particles. I tried various higher symmetry schemes and then finally hit upon what I called the eightfold way, with the group SU(3) as an approximate symmetry.

"At the time I was interested in India and in the various religious traditions of India—my interest was merely academic. I thought it would be a good joke to call the scheme the eightfold way, since the particles tended in many cases to come in sets of eight. Some silly people wrote books trying to connect my work on particle physics with oriental mysticism, whereas the connection was only a joke.

"The crowning triumph of the eightfold way was the discovery in 1964 of the omega-minus particle that I had predicted in 1962 at a meeting in Geneva. On the day of the experimental discovery, my first paper on quarks was published, which laid the foundation for understanding the eightfold way and much else."

Skin cancer cases increasing

By Jayson Martin, MD, and Vicente G. Castillo, MD
Contributors

SKIN cancer is one of the most common cancers worldwide, and its increasing incidence can be attributed to many factors, ranging from our increasing fascination with the sun to a continuing depletion of the ozone layer.

Nevertheless, actinic damage, either direct and local or indirect and systemic, remains the only universally recognized risk factor for skin cancer of all types (the *kayumanggi* complexion of many Filipino notwithstanding). Ultraviolet light, particularly UVB, has been documented to be responsible for acute as well as chronic damage to the skin, and most significantly is also the culprit in malignant degeneration.

Areas in the body that receive the most amount of sun exposure, whether in terms of duration or intensity, are the sites of most skin tumors. Of course there are several congenital or hereditary conditions that can predispose an individual to developing skin cancer, but these are rather rare.

Early detection is key

With the exception of some entities like malignant melanoma, skin tumors have a relatively indolent course and, if caught and treated early, do not become a troublesome or recurrent condition. But diagnosis is sometimes difficult because many patients ignore skin lesions and only consult their doctor when there are already complications such as ulceration, bleeding, infection or regional spread.

Early recognition of which lesions are malignant is important, as treatment protocols are different for benign and cancerous tumors. Moreover, identification of lesions that are benign but of the premalignant nature will also facilitate treatment and subsequent follow-up.

A histopathologic diagnosis, whether by an incision biopsy of the lesion or an outright excision biopsy, will definitely allay any suspicion on the part of the physician as well as any apprehension on the part of the patient.

Treatment

The treatment of skin cancer is no different from that for other cancers. Extirpation of the entire tumor with adequate margins is the cornerstone of skin cancer management. For small lesions, cure rates of surgical or nonsurgical extirpation are in fact comparable.

Most of the problems occur when the tumor encroaches on areas that are difficult to close or reconstruct. Areas around the eyelids, nose, mouth or ears are usually problematic areas.

It must be remembered that there is no substitute for adequate excision of the tumor, and this should never be sacrificed in favor of an easier reconstruction. There will always be available methods of reconstruction, which will leave little or no deformity and disability.

It goes without saying that prevention is worth a pound of cure. The use of sunscreens and other photo protective methods can go a long way. Coupled with close monitoring and early treatment of lesions, skin tumors need not be a concern during the summer vacation.

Unique pelvic exercise may prevent urinary problems

cotton
Laum

By Charles E. Buban

THE PELVIC floor muscles are a series of muscles that form a hammock-like structure running across the opening of the pelvis. In women, these muscles, together with their surrounding tissue, are responsible for keeping all of the pelvic organs (bladder, uterus and rectum) in place and functioning correctly.

Unfortunately, women will commonly damage their pelvic floor muscles during childbirth or when they reach monopause, and this can lead to problems in the future, according to urogynecologist Manuel Ocampo Jr. of the Manila Doctors Hospital.

Says Ocampo: "Women with weak or damaged pelvic floors may experience back pain, symptoms of pelvic pressure or pain. Some may even notice urine leaking whenever they cough, sneeze, lift objects or even walk, while some will have the sensation that something is falling out of their vagina."

According to him, a study of 11 Asian countries revealed that 14.6 percent of females experienced urinary incontinence, or the involuntary loss of urine from the bladder.

Another study (Women's Health Initiative Hormone Replacement Therapy Clinical Trial) revealed that of 16,616 women studied, the rate of uterine prolapse (uterus dropping down into the vagina) was 14.2 percent, the rate of cystocele (bladder dropping from its normal place into the vagina) was 34.3 percent, and the rate of rectocele (rectum bulging into or out of the vagina) was 18.6 percent.

"These high rates indicate that female urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse are common conditions that must be addressed by the healthcare sector," says Ocampo.

Neglected

The doctor laments that people usually neglect female urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse.

"When women complain of having either of these conditions, people around them or even some doctors would dismiss the condition as part of aging and that they should learn to live with it," he says.

This results in reduced social relationships and activities, impaired emotional and social well-being and reduced sexual relationship.

Prevention

"Many women will spend hours exercising their legs and abdominal muscles to 'keep in shape.' Unfortunately, one of the most important set of muscles—the pelvic floor muscles—is overlooked and ignored," says Ocampo.

The doctor suggests doing the Kegel exercises, which are designed to strengthen the pelvic floor muscles that surround the openings of the urethra, vagina and rectum.

A woman simply squeezes or tightens her vaginal muscles, much like the way she does to stop urination.

"To find the right muscles, try stopping the flow of urine when you are sitting on the toilet," Ocampo says. "If you can do it, you are using the right muscles."

Another way of identifying the right muscles include imagining that you are trying to stop passing gas: "Squeeze the muscles you would use. If you sense a pulling feeling, those are the right muscles for pelvic exercises."

Ocampo warns, however, that the exercise should not be done while one is urinating. In case of doubt, one can always ask her doctor or nurse how to identify the right muscles.

Proper way

To properly do the Kegel exercises, the following are suggested: empty the bladder first, tighten the pelvic muscles for 10 seconds, and then relax the muscles for 10 seconds. Keep breathing during the exercise and do not contract the abdomen, thighs or legs.

Repeat this sequence 20 times, at least three to five times a day, and remember not to overdo it.

One can exercise while lying on the floor, sitting in front of one's desk or standing in the bathroom. In fact, using all three positions makes. the muscles stronger.

It may take up to six weeks before one can feel the benefits of the exercise.

Sometimes, however, Kegel exercises are not enough to correct the problem and surgical correction is the only option for treatment. Ocampo says most of these surgeries can be performed on an outpatient basis, with relatively quick recovery times.

Gen X likely victims of Syndrome X

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE UNITED States may be one of the "fattest" countries in the world, but the rest of the world is fast following suit. In fact, the Philippines has been included in the list of "hot spots" by obesity expert Dr. John Foreyt.

Foreyt was in the country last week to talk about Syndrome X, a condition defined as a cluster of health problems that includes heart problems, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes, LDL or bad cholesterol and triglycerides. The presence of three or more of these conditions in a person makes him a likely candidate for Syndrome X.

According to a recent Food and Nutrition Research Institute study presented by Dr. Rody Sy of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and the Philippine Lipid Society, one in five Filipinos has Syndrome X but is unaware of it.

Obesity is one of the culprits responsible for Syndrome X. And for Foreyt, the Asian physique does not help the race cope with the onslaught of Western diet and lifestyle.

"We are seeing more and more the (emergence) of diabetes in all southeastern and Pacific countries. Asia-Pacific weight standards are less than in the West. You get diabetes quicker. The BMI, or body mass index, for overweight Asians is 23, and obesity is 25. In the United States, the BMI of 25 is overweight and 30 is obese. So, here in Asia, all the risk factors come out sooner. And that's very scary," Foreyt notes.

Huge problem

Foreyt directs a research clinic at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He is also a professor of its Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

"A typical Asian or Filipino doesn't have to get as big as we Americans do to get the problems associated with Syndrome X because Asians can get diabetes, hypertension, dislipidemia, and cardiovascular diseases at a much lower weight," Foreyt stressed in his talk before the Philippine College of Physicians and Roche executives.

"There's a huge problem throughout Asia. We've got to try to head it off with good education, good awareness," he said.

Foreyt said that in the United States, two-thirds of the population is now overweight, and this figure is increasing by one percentage point a year. By 2040, virtually all Americans would be overweight or obese.

The rest of the world, he said, is fattening up at slower rates but seems to be following America's lead.

"In the 191 countries we've looked at, all are gaining weight," Foreyt said.

Even in countries such as Bangladesh, Foreyt said obesity could exist side by side with malnutrition.

Indian women, he added, have serious weight problems.

1 in 4 Pinoys overweight

The prevalence of the overweight and the obese in the Philippines was recorded at 21 percent in 1997. It would most likely be higher now, say medical experts.

"One in four Filipinos being overweight is already scary. This is one generation where children may die before their parents because they are getting heavier and heavier, and all the risk factors are coming out sooner. By the time they get to their 20s and 30s, they're starting to suffer from heart attacks and strokes—diseases that we used to get when we were in our 60s and 70s," said Foreyt.

He observed that many overweight children do not outgrow their fat.

"There's no need to be fat," Foreyt said. "You (as a parent) are doing a disservice to the child if he is fat."

Fat culprits

What feeds obesity? The clear culprits, said Foreyt, are the so-called "affluent diet" and lack of physical activity. The way to obesity is to eat more than you expend in exercise.

Is being fat predestined by one's genes?

"I don't think genetics play a role at all. If it did, it would be very small compared to behavioral and personality (factors). Your eating plan is not genetics. It's all your choice," he said.

Asked if psychology offers a structured way of dealing with obesity, Foreyt told the INQUIRER that the approach depends from person to person, and a highly personalized program is needed. The structure of the program depends on the psychology, depression and anxiety levels of a patient.

He added that behavioral and personality factors play a major role in weight loss and weight maintenance.

The cardboard façade syndrome

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(1st of two parts)

MEDICAL FILES

I AM worried for many of our actors and actresses who ran during the last elections. Win or lose, I think there is reason to worry about their health and psychological state. One can't help but sympathize with them and wish them well as they try to put up a resolute façade, what some would call the "cardboard façade" syndrome.

In Hollywood and in practically all movie studios, façades of buildings, and even temples, are set up, but they remain just that, façades propped up by wooden and steel braces just strong to keep the structures standing. Just a moderate amount of strain, however, can make the false façade collapse and crumble.

Such may be the case of many movie personalities. Prodded by supporters, they're convinced to seek a mandate from the people, with popularity as their main credential. By sheer internalization, they somehow convince themselves that they can take up the roles of public leaders that they're not qualified to be. But deep inside, they know that they don't have the necessary competence.

The pressure to maintain such a façade is so strong it can potentially ruin a person physically and mentally, either after winning or losing the elections. If only their supporters realize how unfair they are to their actor or actress friends, they would certainly stop giving them wrong advice.

I'm not worried about movie personalities like Boots Anson-Roa who have the intelligence and proper credentials. Their movie personality façade is supported by a sturdy structure. Win or lose, they won't crumble. Movie stars who already have a solid public service experience, like Vilma Santos and Joey Marquez, are confidently stable. They can easily bounce back if they lose or rise to the occasion should they win.

Disaster awaits

A psycho-sociologic disaster awaits those who try to maintain the façade even against all odds. They should put their feet back on the ground and accept reality before it's too late. How will our movie stars know they're headed for such a disaster? The following are tell-tale signs and symptoms:

- Persistent irritability and anxiety
- Insomnia
- Forgetfulness and/or inability to concentrate
- Tiredness and easy fatigability
- Procrastination and indecision
- Social withdrawal and cynicism
- Resentment, indifference and defiance
- Increased use of coffee, alcohol, tobacco, etc.
- Chronic sadness or depression
- Chronic mental and physical fatigue
- Chronic stress-related illnesses (headache, stomach ache, bowel problems, etc.)
- Isolation, withdrawal, self-destructive thoughts.

Role of family, friends

The movie star is in no position anymore to detect the problem because he, or she, may be too deep into the psychological pit and his ego has taken control over him. His spouse and truly sincere and well-meaning friends should take the initiative to bring the movie star back to reality and allow him to recover.

There still will be depression and resentment initially, but with the moral support structure provided by his family and friends, the movie star is likely to pick up the pieces and be whole again.

What is more worrisome is if the movie star wins a position he is not qualified for. The cardboard façade syndrome persists and causes all sorts of complications, metaphorically similar to a cancer which spreads unabatedly.

The chance for cure of this tragic syndrome becomes hopelessly nil. He can only maintain the false façade for so long, but eventually, a wrong decision here and there, which he's bound to make a lot of, will cause a more severe downfall. It can ruin him physically, socially and psychologically. The ruin of course extends to the people he was meant to serve.

Debunking the myth about antibiotics, the pill

THE CLAIM: Antibiotics can reduce the effectiveness of birth control.

The Facts: This rumor dates from the early 1970s, when doctors started documenting reports of women who were taking both the pill and antibiotics, and became pregnant. For the most part, experts now say, such cases can be attributed to chance.

In 1997, a study of thousands of women found a 1.6 percent failure rate of oral contraceptives in women taking antibiotics. For women taking just the pill, the failure rate was almost identical. Several large randomized studies have had similar results.

Researchers have found that a powerful antibiotic, rifampin, can interfere with a number of drugs, including contraceptive pills. But rifampin is used mainly to treat tuberculosis and is not considered a common antibiotic like tetracycline or penicillin, experts say.

The Bottom Line: Despite anecdotal reports, common antibiotics do not interfere with birth control. *Science Times/New York Times News Service*

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Numb tongue

WHY is my tongue still numb a day after my dental treatment? Can the anesthesia last that long?—Marie D.

You should inform your dentist about your situation. Anesthesia used by dentists usually last two to four hours. If you still have numbness, it's possible that a nerve in the tongue was traumatized. Trauma can occur from a needle because the nerves are not seen under the gum. Traumatized nerves usually get back their feeling after one month. In a worst-case scenario, the numbness could take longer or it could result to permanent paresthesia.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

KIDS' QUIZ

Gangs of animals

THIS is the fourth in a series of quizzes on animal groupings. Check your knowledge of the names for the group of animals by matching the kind of animal on the left with the name for their group on the right.

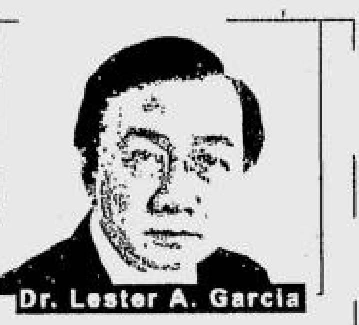
Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Animal	Name of their group
1. Turtles	a) Shrewdness
2. Rhinos	b) Gaggle
3. Squirrels	c) float
4. Walrus	d) Covey
5. Geese	e) Trip
6. Toads	f) Knot
7. Partridges	g) Clutter
8. Apes	h) Pod
9. Goats	i) Crash
10. Cats	j) Bale
	k) Dray

ANSWERS: 1-j, 2-i, 3-k, 4-h,
5-b, 6-f, 7-d, 8-a, 9-e, 10-g

Be EDucated



Dr. Lester A. Garcia

What is Erectile Dysfunction (ED)? Why diagnose ED?

Dr. Garcia answers that matter.

Erectile Dysfunction (ED) is the consistent inability of a man to get and/or maintain an erection sufficient for sexual intercourse. Traditionally, this inability is called impotence. The term Erectile Dysfunction is more precise because it refers only to erection problems. Men with erection problem often retain other sexual functions. For example, they may still be able to have orgasm and ejaculate semen.

ED occurs when blood flow to the penis is diminished or lessened. Experts believe that many ED cases may be due to both physical and psychological factors. High blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, and certain medications are associated with a large number of ED cases. Other risk factors for ED include nerve damage, kidney or liver disease, other vascular conditions, cigarette smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, which make it difficult for sufficient blood flow into the vessels of the penis. The severity of ED ranges from mild to severe (complete loss of function).

ED should be diagnosed because, first and foremost, men care about having sex. Men affected by ED can experience low self-esteem, performance anxiety, depressed moods, stress, guilt, and relationship conflicts. These sometimes can combine to compound the problem. Men with ED want to return to a normal sex life with their partners.

Recent studies show that in men with ED, their erection problem made them feel generally less confident in life. Quality of life likewise is reduced considerably. To them, ED has a negative impact on the quality of life.

ED should also be diagnosed because it can be an indicator of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and prostate cancer.

Doctors should diagnose ED because patients want them to do so. Patients need doctors to ask them if they have ED. Research show that many men with ED are not being asked about erectile problem. Eight out of 10 men want their doctor to ask them about ED. Worldwide estimates suggest that more than 70 percent of ED remain undiagnosed.

If you think you might have ED, here are a few simple questions you can ask yourself to determine if you should talk to your doctor: 1) Are you usually able to get and/or keep an erection during sexual stimulation? 2) Is your erection hard enough to achieve penetration during intercourse on a regular basis? 3) Are you able to maintain a satisfactory erection through completion of intercourse? If you answered No to any of these questions, talk to your doctor about ED and treatment options.

Erectile Dysfunction is now an easily treatable disease. ED treatment improves quality of life and patient satisfaction.

ED treatment improves quality of life, patient satisfaction, and patient-clinician relationship. Last, but not the least, Erectile Dysfunction is now an easily treatable disease.

Consult your doctor now and ask for the ED treatment that allows you the freedom to choose the right moment.

Lester A. Garcia, M.D.,
consultant urologist,
Department of Urology,
St. Luke's Medical Center;
and chairman,
Department of Urology,
East Avenue Medical
Center. He is the
immediate past
president of the Philippine
Urologist Association, Inc.

Lilly
ANSWERS THAT MATTER.

BIR misses April target by 5.8%, nets ₱53.02B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue missed its collection goal for April, normally considered the make-or-break month for the government's main revenue collector.

The BIR, which accounts for two-thirds of the government's revenue collection, blamed the off-target performance mainly on lower than expected collections from large corporations.

The BIR said in a statement that its collection for April, the month when the bulk of the year's taxes are remitted by individual and corporate taxpayers, stood at only P53.02 billion compared with the P56.3-billion target.

It was the third time this year that the BIR failed to meet its monthly collection goal, although the April collection was the BIR's highest single-month collection in a century.

In January and February, the BIR missed its P38.44-billion and P30.45-billion targets, but it remained confident that it could meet its full-year goal of P477 billion.

"The biggest worry comes from the lower aggregate taxes of some 540 large taxpayers this April," said the BIR in the statement.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said he has ordered an audit investigation of companies belonging to the large taxpayers division to determine the cause of their lower remittances for the month compared with previous years' levels.

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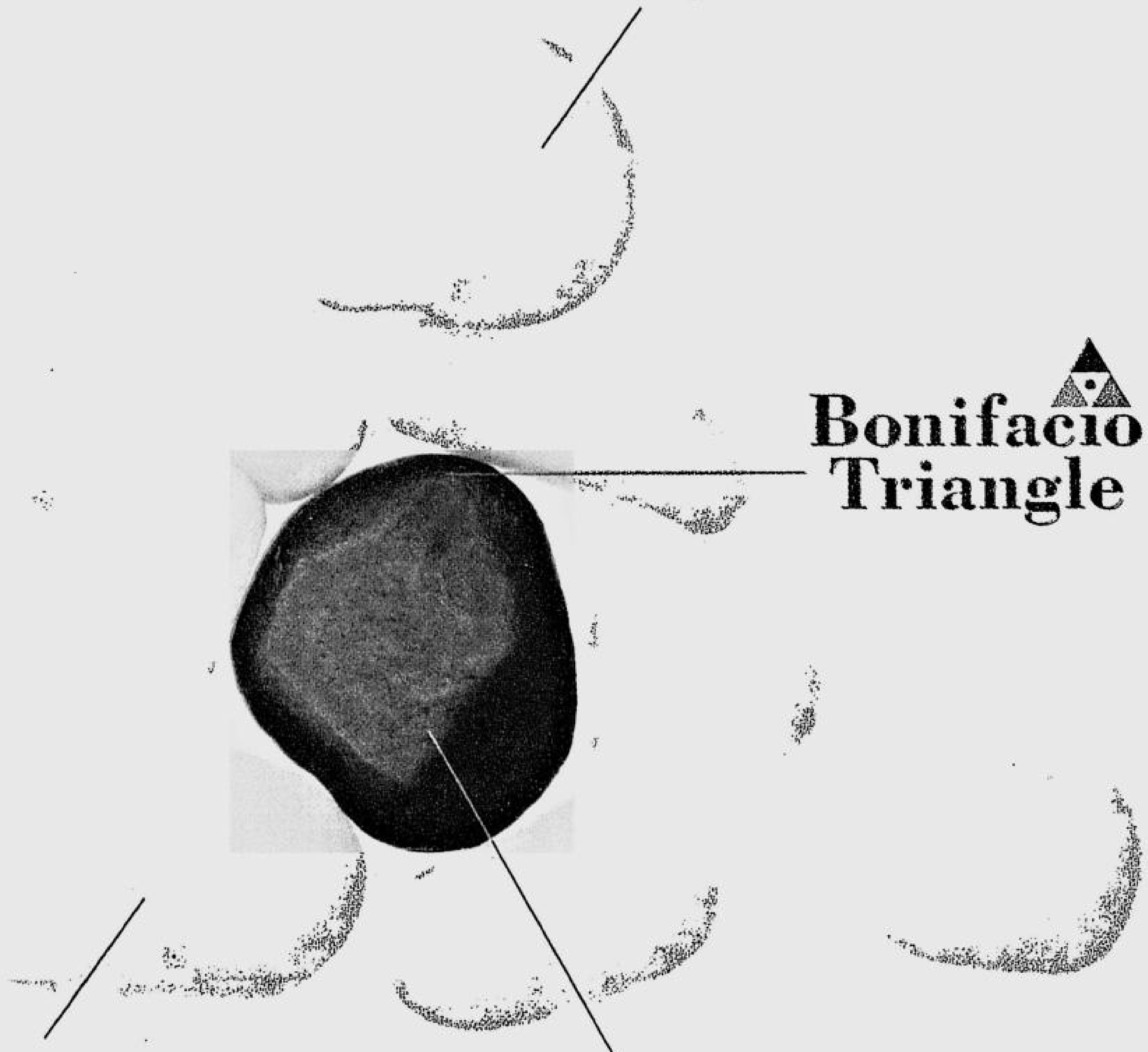

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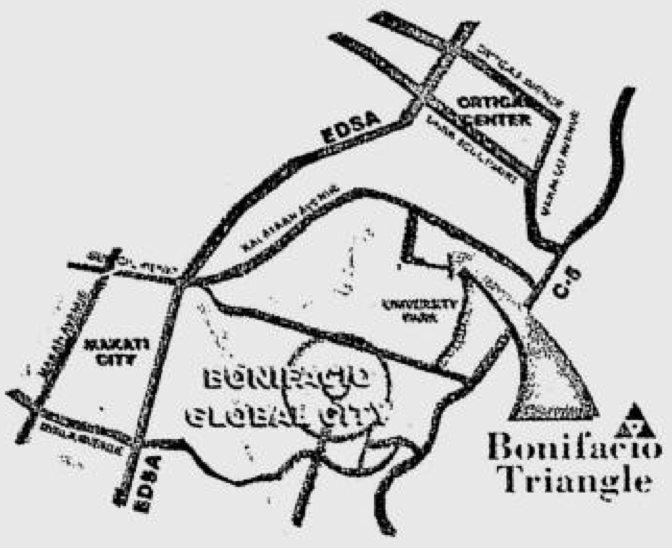

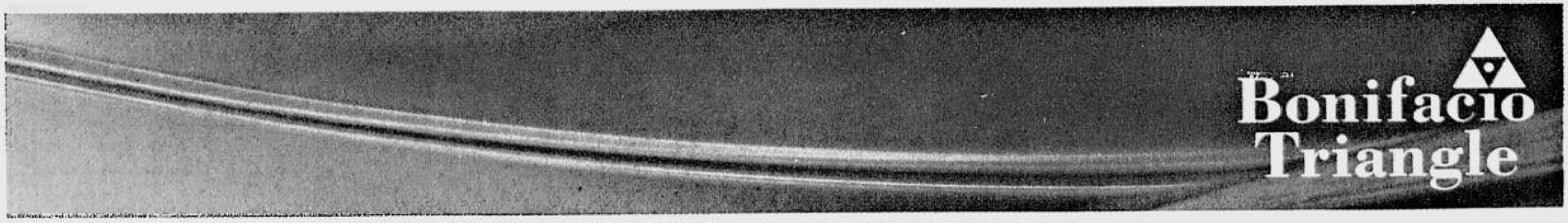

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And then there were three

By Nestor U. Torre

BARRINO. Sassy.

TRIAS. Pitchy.

DEGARMO. Safe bet?

THANKS to Rica Arevalo, we've gotten word from the States that "our" Jasmine Trias has "survived" yet another round of "American Idol," and is now one of the three remaining finalists, along with sassy Fantasia Barrino (our personal favorite) and Diana DeGarmo.

Verdict

Jasmine herself expected that it would be her time to bow out, but it turned out that La Toya London was "it." The text-vote verdict must have enraged La Toya's many fans, but that's the way it went.

We surmise that Jasmine survived mainly because of the heavy Fil-Am and Hawaiian text-vote campaign in her favor.

Indeed, the judges' comments Jasmine's performance got during this round were pretty downbeat:

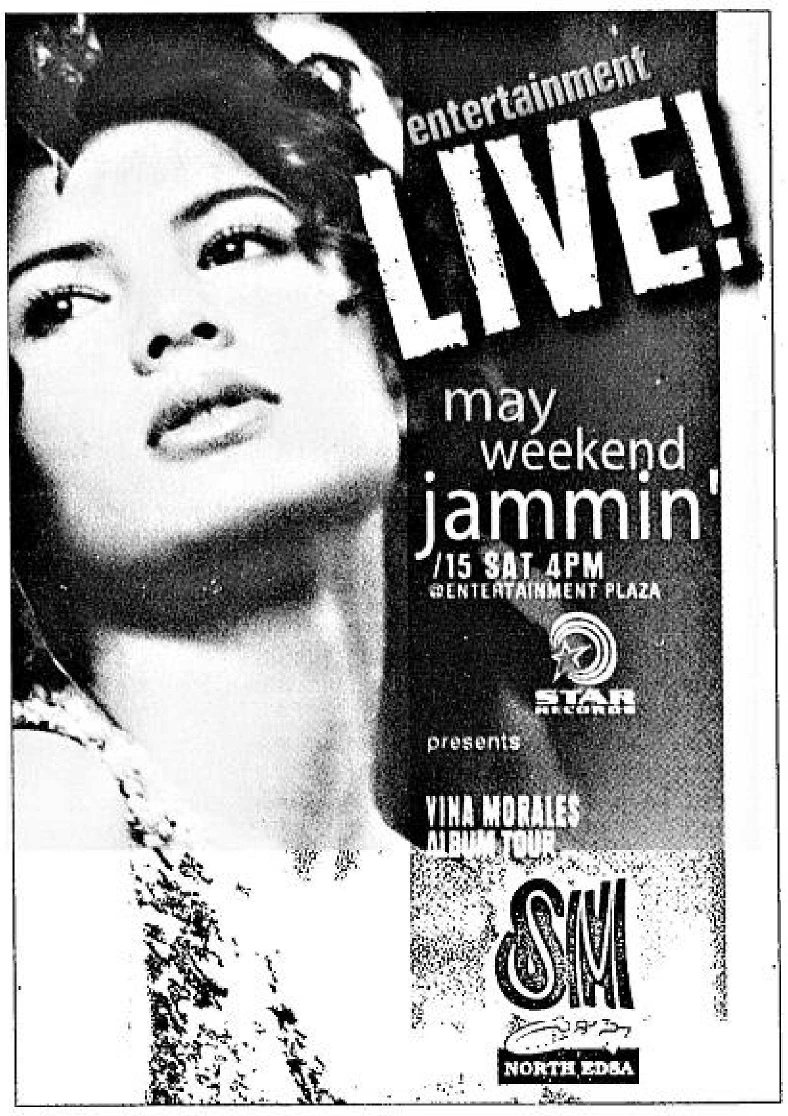
Even the usually kind Paula Abdul had to say, "This is hard for me, because I had a chance to hear you in rehearsals, and I know the power your voice can carry. You got thrown off (when Jasmine sang 'It's Raining Men') because you forgot the lyrics.

Shaken

"You covered it well, but when that happens, your confidence is shaken. I think Hawaii loves you. I think all of America loves you, and they will forgive you for this."

Randy Jackson sighed, "It was not your best performance. You were

AND THEN/ C2



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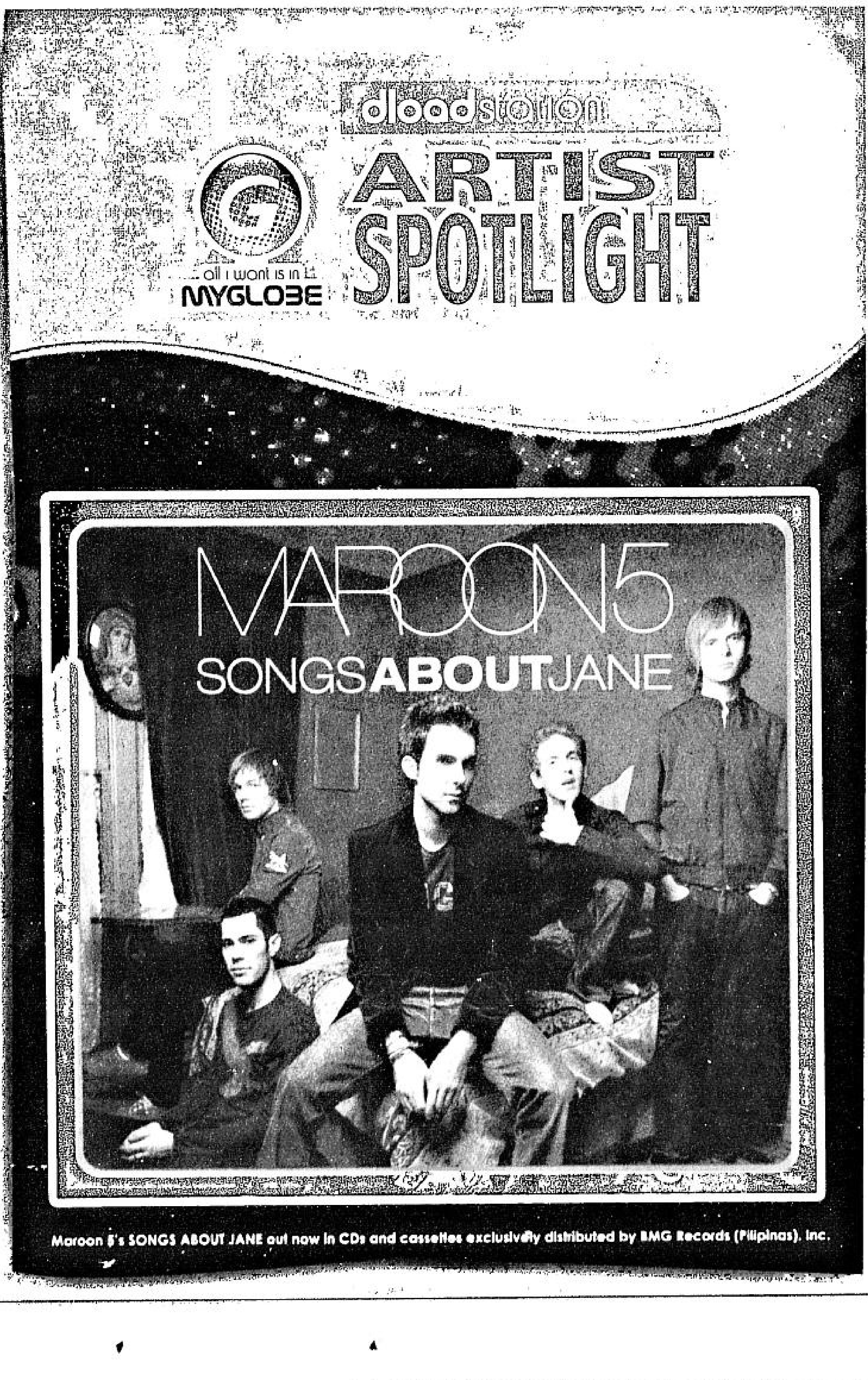

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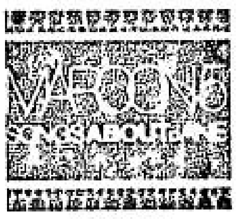

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NOW SHOWING

Brad Pitt glistens in new starrer

By Rito P. Asilo

"Troy"

D: Wolfgang Peterson
S: Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom, Eric Bana

PETERSEN ("Air Force One," "Das Boot") fires up the screen when he gets the action going in this lengthy (two hours and 40 minutes!), sweeping adaptation of Homer's 3,000-year-old poem, "The Iliad."

He graphically describes the horrors of war and politics, and the consequences of the characters' sexual proclivities by littering his screen with beautiful, charismatic actors with Grecian worldliness and sex appeal.

The protracted if inaccurate film, an epic meant to pay homage to David Lean, dramatizes the passionate love affair of Trojan prince Paris (a pretty Bloom) and Helen (Diane Kruger), the young, desperate wife of scruffy Menelaus of Sparta, which leads to the Greeks laying bloody siege to the mighty Troy with the help of Achilles (Pitt).

The buffed Brad Pitt, perfect as the arrogant warrior who develops a soft spot for captured royalty, Briseis (played by Rose Byrne) practically glistens like a Greek god. Ironically, Byrne has more presence than Kruger, who plays a bland Helen.

The affair sparks a 10-year war that pits the Spartan king and his brother Agamemnon against Troy's Paris and his brother Hector (the sympathetic Bana).

Forget character development. It's hard to achieve it if you have a cast as huge as this in a movie that is grand, but whose dramatic core—indispensable in films of this length and scope—is unfocused. But, take note of the haunting song, "Remember," by Josh Groban and Tanja Tzarovska.

"My Wife is a Gangster"

D: Jin-gyu Cho
S: Eun-kyung Shin, Sang-myeon Park

A feared, fearless and hardened right-hand woman, Eun-jin Cha (the wondrously charismatic Shin), of a powerful Korean mobster finds herself in a dilemma when her beloved, long-lost sister—who's terminally ill with cancer—reveals that she wants to see Eun-jin settle down in marriage before she dies.

The succeeding scenes involving the search for a "suitable" husband, and Eun-jin's "compromises" to fulfill her sister's dying wish, make for a fun, totally absorbing viewing experience.

When the "right" man—who's unaware of the tricks of her rough trade—comes along, all hell breaks mirthfully loose—as she struggles to balance a sane, domestic life and a morally-bankrupt, violence-prone career!

If you want to see what's lacking in Filipino films, this innovative and hugely entertaining film from South Korea holds some clues. The perfectly choreographed opening fight scene alone sizzles as it dabbles into John Woo's poetry-in-motion territory.

Nope, this is not one of those cheesy Asian screamfests that drip with camp and kitsch. Hollywood recently snagged its remake rights for Queen Latifah—but we honestly doubt if it can come up with a better version.

TYLER AND AFFLECK. Show sensitivity in Kevin Smith's new flick.

"Jersey Girl"

D: Kevin Smith
S: Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler, Jennifer Lopez

Forget the "Gigli" debacle and the out-of-this-world tabloid stories. The irrepressibly witty Kevin Smith ("Clerks," "Chasing Amy") elevates this hackneyed tale about a successful Manhattan music publicist, Ollie Trinke (Affleck), whose life crumbles when his book editor wife (Lopez) dies during childbirth.

Soon after, the deeply-grieving husband—still angry over his loss, and under extreme pressure from work—loses his job after offending his bosses by refusing to take in a little-known recording artist called Will Smith, who makes a welcome cameo. ("Yeah, like the Fresh Prince of Bel Air is *ever* gonna have a movie career!," Ollie says.)

Seven years later, he finds himself picking up the pieces in suburban New Jersey, with his delightful seven-year-old daughter (the precocious Raquel Castro). —And then, he finds love in the person of a video store clerk (Tyler).

Yes, we've heard the story before, but the film resonates with honesty and unfettered charm. Check out the hilarious if embarrassingly disconcerting scene where Tyler asks Affleck about his sex life.

Smith peppers his small, heartwarming movie with sardonic wit and candor, and succeeds where other directors before him have failed—he shows the world that, yes, gorgeous Ben and Jen, and the luminous Liv *can* act!

PITT. Portrays Achilles in Wolfgang Petersen's adaptation of "The Iliad."

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With a little help from my friends

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

AFTER agreeing to do the "cultural" fashion revue, I asked Jolly dela Torre, our country's labor attache to Tel Aviv: "What gowns will they model?" "Their own wardrobes . . .," Jolly answered. "Oooh," I said. My voice was slightly garbled and traveling through different octaves. Now, the whole project became a real challenge! "Okay," I assured him, "You're on!"

Manic

As I tend to be manic about work, I quickly made a list of friends I could beg or borrow gowns from. I immediately started calling them up and asking if they had gowns and vintage Philippine attire hanging in their closets. Could they please, pretty *please*, lend them to me?

I called up Barbara Perez, Norma Japitana, Au Cobarrubias, all good and reliable friends. Of course, I got positive feedback from all three.

Bamba offered three classic-looking gowns. Norma had Chinese pieces. Au gave me her Sandico wraps. —Talk about a great beginning!

PEREZ. "Donated" three classic-looking gowns.

Then, I called up Yaying Dragon, who sent over beautiful *camisas* and *barongs*. Nedy Tantoco's gown was a vintage Casimiro Abad. (I had to wait for a couple of weeks because the kind lady had it dry-cleaned in Hong Kong, no less!) I called up June Keithley, who said she had '60s and '70s gowns.

Generosity

Pinky Marquez not only said yes, she sent over showpiece gowns. So did Dulce! Such generosity! Luzbella Gecolea sent a couple of vintage *ternos*.

I went to Ben Farrales' salon to pick up two "to-die-for" Muslim-influenced gowns and a Cordillera textile jacket. Pitoy Moreno quickly said yes, too. He lent me six *ternos*—along with a green suitcase he said I could use for the trip. I looked up and whispered: "Thank you for blessing me with these friends."

Book

Gilda Cordero Fenando not only sent over five items that she used for her book, she went one step further and wrote in her note: "They're yours."

Eric Pineda sent over *barongs* and Maria Claras. Amy Rara, a good friend of my brother Tony, just happened to be in the house when I broached the need for some ethnic attire. She returned the next day with choice items. Patricia de la Torre, Jolly's niece, came to my Quezon City house from Makati *thrice*(!)—to pick up four *balikbayan* boxes to send posthaste to Israel!

And then there were three

From page C1

pitchy all over the place."

And Simon Cowell grimly growled, "You had better hope that every household in Hawaii has five telephones. You can't do the Weather Girls. It didn't work."

—Well, it looks like every household in Hawaii had *six* phones, because Jasmine survived!

Other songs

Her other song that day, "Everlasting Love," didn't rate much better with the three regular judges, however:

Paula's evaluation: "There were some pitch problems, but you found your groove midway through. Not my favorite choice of song. I'm looking forward to your next performance."

Randy: "I don't think it was that good. You hit the high notes, but that's it. The rest, you sounded unsure of yourself."

Vulnerable

As for Simon, he went for the jugular: "I think you know how vulnerable you are. You were probably the next most likely to go. After that, you are definitely going to go home. It was a bad choice of song, and a weak performance."

—Aren't we glad that Cowell isn't God (even if he thinks he is)? Thanks to Jasmine's powerful text-vote "support group," she proved him wrong and is still in there, fighting.

Survival

On "American Idol," survival is the best retort—and revenge! So, shut up, Cowell (for a few days, at least).

What about poor La Toya London? She didn't do badly at all this time, even prompting Paula to gush, "You continue to shine week after week. You were a star before this competition, and you'll be a star after. I think I'm looking at an American Idol." But *somebody* had to go, LaToya had the

AND THEN/ C4

The real battle

From page C3

the sidelines, but it's difficult to be out there, fighting the battle."

A friend joined in, "In a basketball game, people in the audience shout to the players to shoot the ball and call the players bad names when they miss.

"But they forget that the reason the player is on the court is because he can shoot and play the game better."

In life, some individuals criticize others constantly, while they themselves do not lift a finger to help improve the situation.

Skills

It is those who risk their lives to do noble and selfless work who grow and mature in life. They develop skills and acquire the discipline to fight life's battles.

Those who take up the challenge to attain spiritual goals are pushed forward. They work under God's direction and are protected by Him. It doesn't matter if materialistic spectators deride their weaknesses.

The real battle in life is to gain entry to the spiritual kingdom, and the ultimate referee who decides who the winners are is the Supreme Being.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

New blockbusters vie for viewers' patronage

By Nestor U. Torre

"THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN." From adolescents to teenagers.

BIG-BUDGET movies have topped the box-office for several film seasons now, so hopes are high that the new epic adventure, "Troy," will click with viewers.

Right after "Troy," the big, high-concept offering is Roland Emmerich's "The Day After Tomorrow." The film is about a natural disaster involving drastic climate change that ravages the world and tests mankind's ability to survive.

As millions of terrified survivors try to find shelter, a brilliant scientist (Dennis Quaid) heads for New York City, which has become a frozen wasteland, to look for his son (Jake Gyllenhaal), who may still be alive.

Opposite direction

As massive evacuations to the south proceed, the scientist stubbornly heads in the opposite direction, putting himself in harm's way just to save his son.

Aside from the human drama, Emmerich's movie offers non-stop action, spectacular visual effects, and one disaster after another: Tornadoes rip Los Angeles apart, a snowstorm buries New Delhi, a hailstorm batters Tokyo, and in New York City, the temperature swings from sweltering to freezing in only one day.

Another potential blockbuster is "Spider-Man 2." In the sequel, two years have passed since the mild-mannered Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) walked away from his longtime love (Kirsten Dunst), and decided to take the road to responsibility as Spider-Man.

Dual identities

Peter must now face new challenges as he struggles to cope with his super-powers, which are both "a gift and a curse." He must also balance his dual identities as the elusive superhero, Spider-Man, and as a college student.

The relationships Peter values most are now in danger of unraveling as he is forced to clash with the powerful, multi-tentacled villain, Dr. Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina).

Peter's love for Mary Jane, Dunst's character, becomes even stronger, and he is tempted to abandon his secret life to be with her. But she has moved on: She has embarked on an acting career and has a new man in her life.

Vendetta

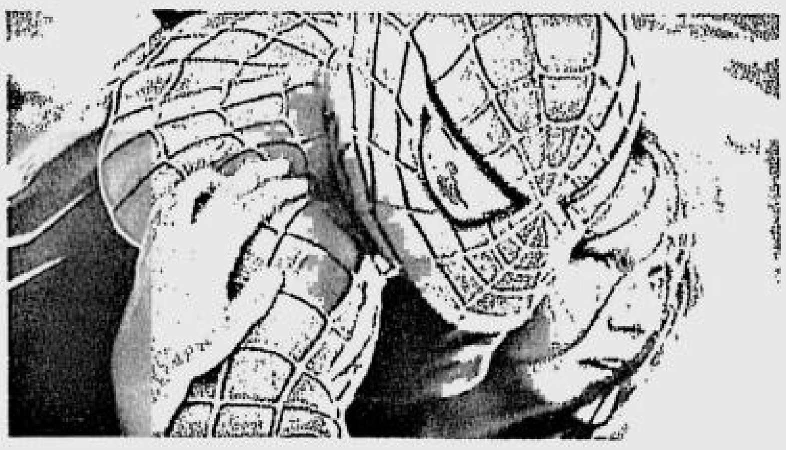
Another subplot involves Peter's relationship with his best friend Harry (James Franco), which has been overshadowed by Harry's vendetta against Spider-Man, whom Harry holds responsible for his father's death.

Finally, the new Harry Potter film, "The Prison of Azkaban," takes its story to another level, as director Alfonso Cuaron moves his young leads from adolescence to their teenage years.

Possibilities

Now that he's a teenager, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) experiences angst, becomes unsure of himself, and is generally confused throughout the film. Also, he starts to notice girls—and that opens up a world of new possibilities!

Which of these three big-budget productions will chalk up the highest grosses? Our bet is on "The Prisoner of Azkaban," because Harry Potter is a film franchise with long-running appeal, with millions of fans eager to see each new installment the minute it reaches the movie screen.



"SPIDER-MAN 2." Peter Parker is tempted to abandon secret life to be with Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst).

The real battle

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

IT'S much easier to be the spectator than the player, but it's better to play than to watch. For instance, some friends went to watch their kids have fun at a paintball shooting game. A father kept shouting to his daughters to attack the enemy. But the girls were cautious and paid no heed.

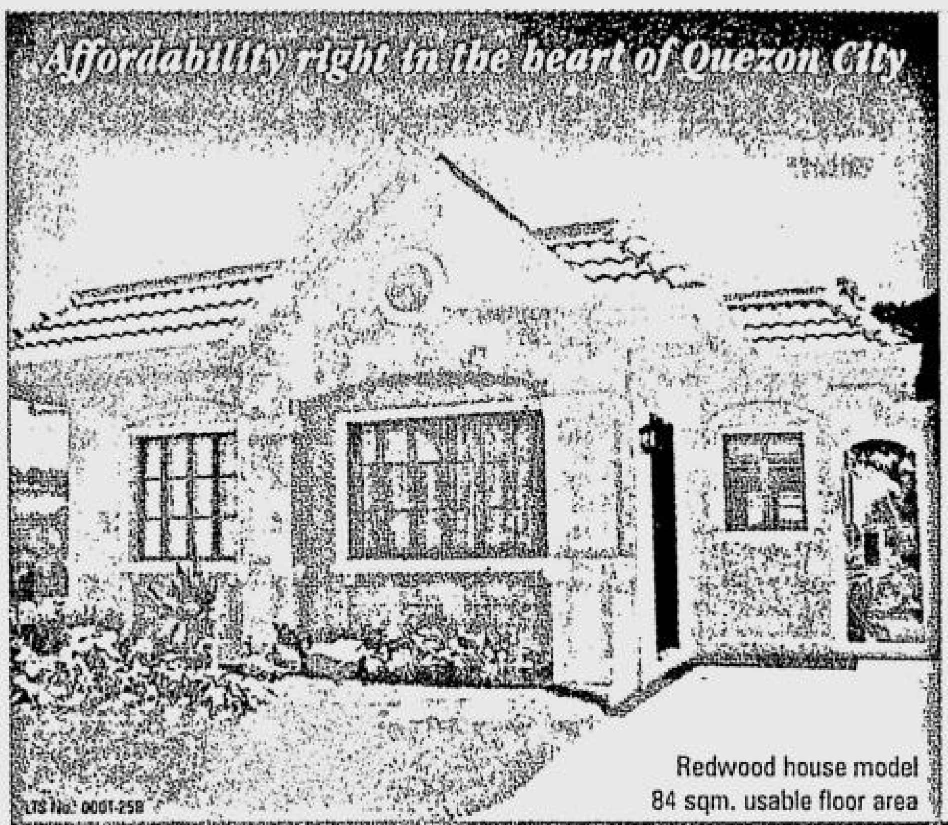
Maneuvers

Then, the father decided to join in. At the onset of the game, the younger kids rushed ahead, while he slowly went down a steep slope. Soon, he heard people laughing at his slow-paced maneuvers.

Difficult

After the game, he confessed, "It wasn't as easy as it looked. It's easy to comment from

THE REAL/ C2



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'The Green Hat' tops Tribeca filmfest

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NEW YORK—"The Green Hat," about a middle-aged man coping with his wife's infidelity, took the best narrative feature prize, and its director was named best new narrative filmmaker at the Tribeca film festival.

Liu Fen Dou of China wins a total of $45,000 for the two awards, announced last Sunday at the end of the nine-day festival.

Clear winner

"All the winning works are titles being shown for the first time on this continent, and several of them were world premieres, including 'The Green Hat,' the clear winner as the narrative feature jury's choice for both best film and best new filmmaker," said festival executive director Peter Scarlet.

Two films shared the award for best documentary feature: "Arna's Children" of Israel, by Danniel Danniel and Juliano Mer Khamis, and Cathy Henkel's "The Man Who Stole My Mother's Face" from Australia and South Africa.

Documentary filmmaker

The prize for best new documentary filmmaker went to Brazil's Paulo Sacramento for "The Prisoner of the Iron Bars: Self-Portraits."

Jurors included actresses Mary-Louise Parker, Kyra Sedgwick and Glenn Close, documentarian Albert Maysles, former United Artists president Bingham Ray and Queen Noor of Jordan.

The festival, now in its third year, featured more than 250 films from 42 countries. It was designed to help lower Manhattan rebound economically after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. *AP*

CLOSE. Celebrity juror.

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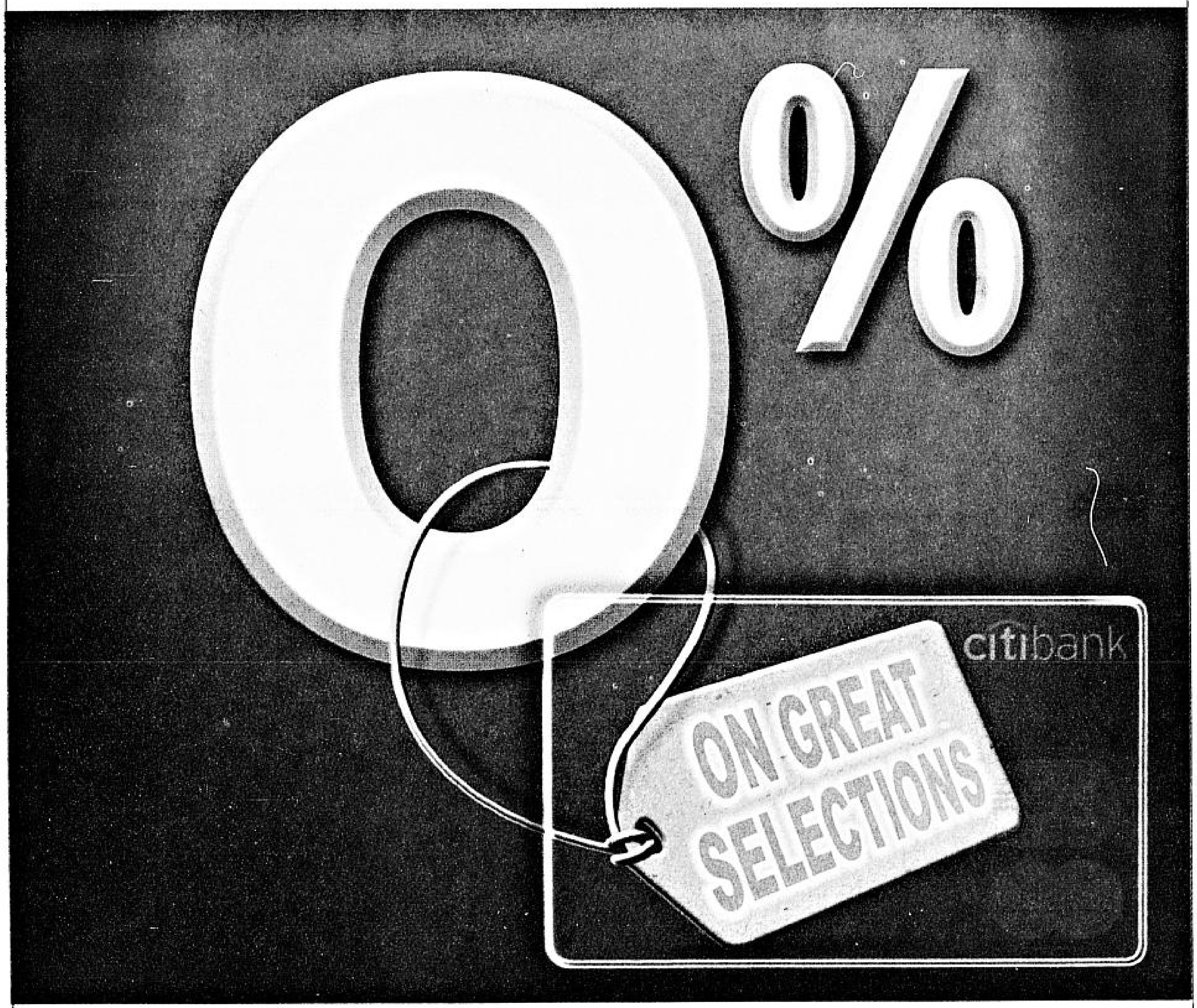

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Attractive power of well-told lies

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

THE VISUALS in Tim Burton's "Big Fish" are stunning, yes, but sometimes, we felt that there were too many of them, and sometimes, they didn't really mesh in with the rest of the story.

Great performances

This visual feast-fest would only have been so much eye candy if it were not for the great performances of its well-chosen cast. The venerable Albert Finney leads the pack as the old, blustering, larger-than-life Edward Bloom, who casts everybody else in the shade even when he's horizontal and dying.

Ewan McGregor is entirely believable as his bold, younger incarnation, with a Southern accent that sits well enough on the ears. Jessica Lange is lovely and sympathetic as Edward's wife, Sandra, and it isn't hard to imagine her uncanny lookalike, Alison Lohman, as her younger version.

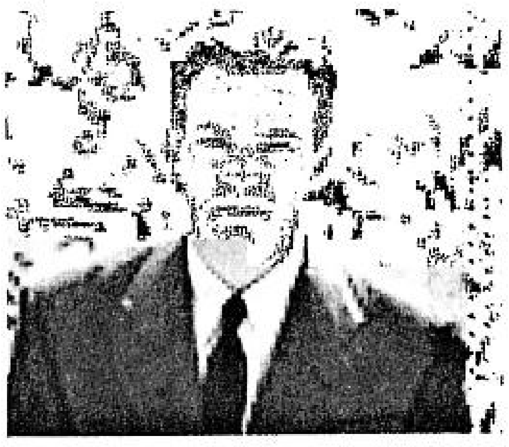
Classic tale

Edward's life, which reads like the classic tale of small town boy making it big, may seem like "Forrest Gump" at first. But unlike Gump, Edward Bloom is not simple, nor does he just react to the world around him.

Instead, he recreates it according to his own inner vision, into something mythical and fantastic where cars can get caught up in trees, and fishes can sometimes look like people.

Not as emotionally distant as Burton's earlier work, though it isn't quite as good as "Edward Scissorhands," Big Fish" gives us a blend of fantasy and reality that tickles the imagination and moves the heart.

We wouldn't call this film great or a masterpiece, but it is certainly a great improvement over Burton's film before this, the 2001 debacle, "Planet of the Apes."


McGREGOR. Believable as the young incarnation of the film's protagonist.

Gwyneth takes time off to have first baby

NEW YORK—As she prepares to become a mother for the first time, Gwyneth Paltrow is taking inspiration from her own mother, Blythe Danner, who put her acting career on hold to raise Paltrow and her brother, Jake.

Amazing projects

"My mother turned down every fantastic movie there was," Paltrow tells W magazine for its June issue. "She turned down amazing projects that would have made her a huge movie star."

Paltrow played poet Sylvia Plath opposite Danner last year in the film, "Sylvia," which she says is "something that I'm most proud of." *AP*

And then . . .

From page C2

least number of text-votes, so she was "it." Her fans must be crushed.

Not to worry, through: "American Idol" has "made" La Toya, so it looks like she'll become a singing star—even without winning the top spot on "American Idol"!

SATURDAY *Special*

Aga's dilemma

By Nestor U. Torre

AGA Muhlach has had a charmed show biz career.

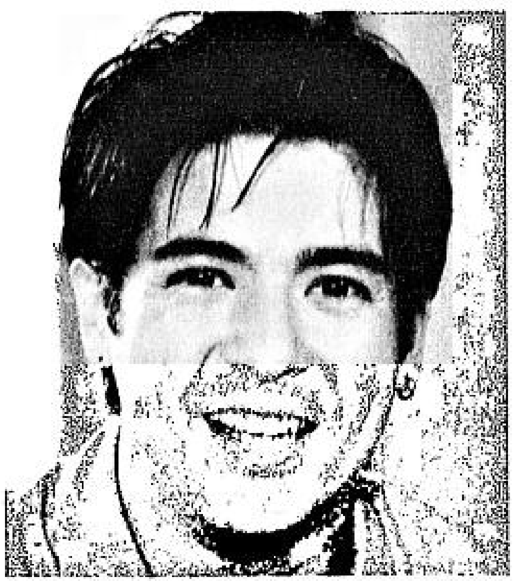
His first major showcase, "Bagets," gave him a good chance to prove his unique appeal and talent. He shared top billing with other young male comers, but viewers agreed that Aga was the movie's best player.

Subsequently, he became popular as a teen lead. And he enhanced his reputation as one of the country's finest young actors when Lino Brocka tapped him to play the title role in "Miguelito, Ang Batang Rebelde."

Rapid ascent

But Aga's rapid ascent to the top was abruptly cut short when he became a single dad while still in his teens. For years, he lost his cachet with producers

AGA'S/ D3



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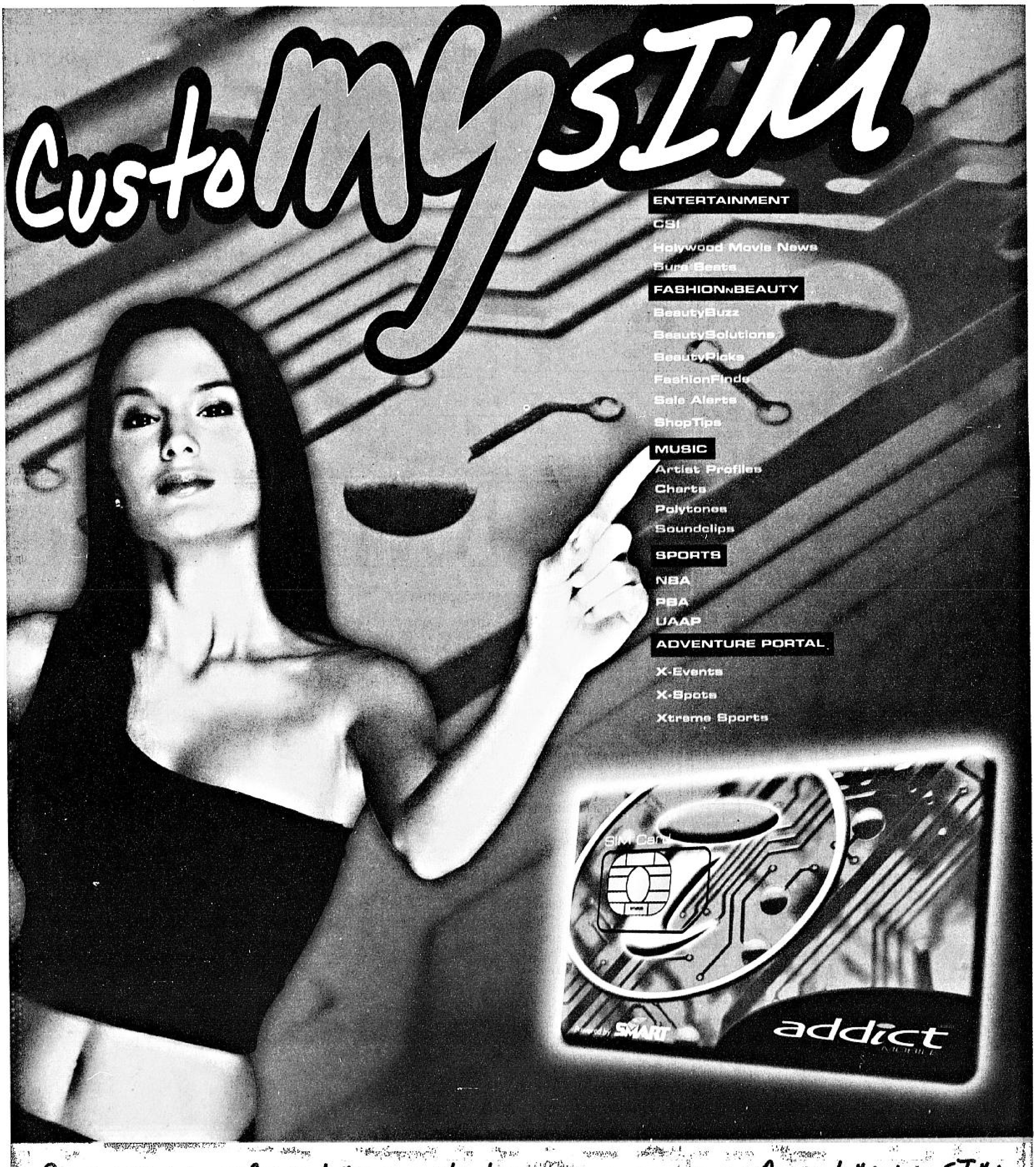
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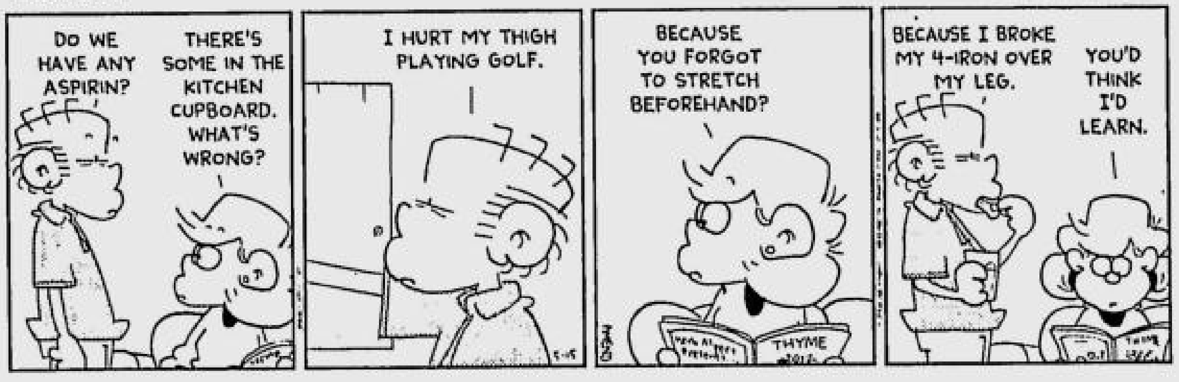
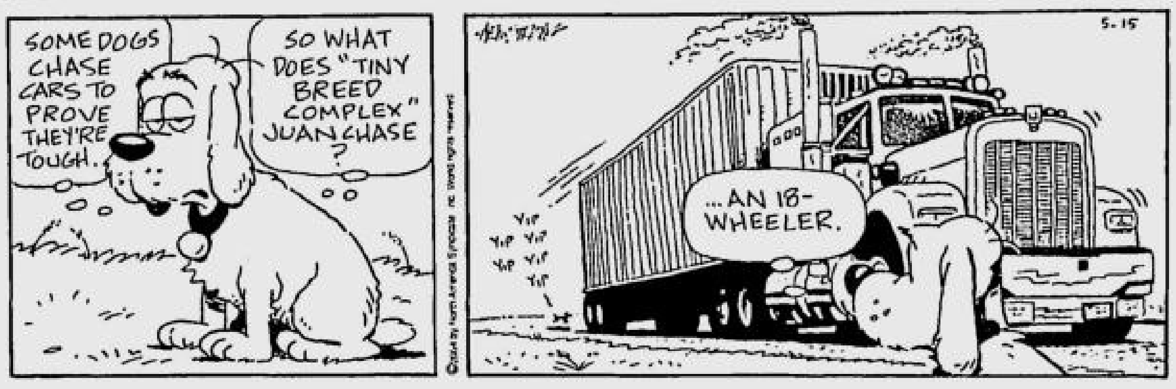
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DO WE HAVE ANY ASPIRIN?
THERE'S SOME IN THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD. WHAT'S WRONG?
I HURT MY THIGH PLAYING GOLF.
BECAUSE YOU FORGOT TO STRETCH BEFOREHAND?
THYME
BECAUSE I BROKE MY 4-IRON OVER MY LEG.
YOU'D THINK I'D LEARN.
5-15

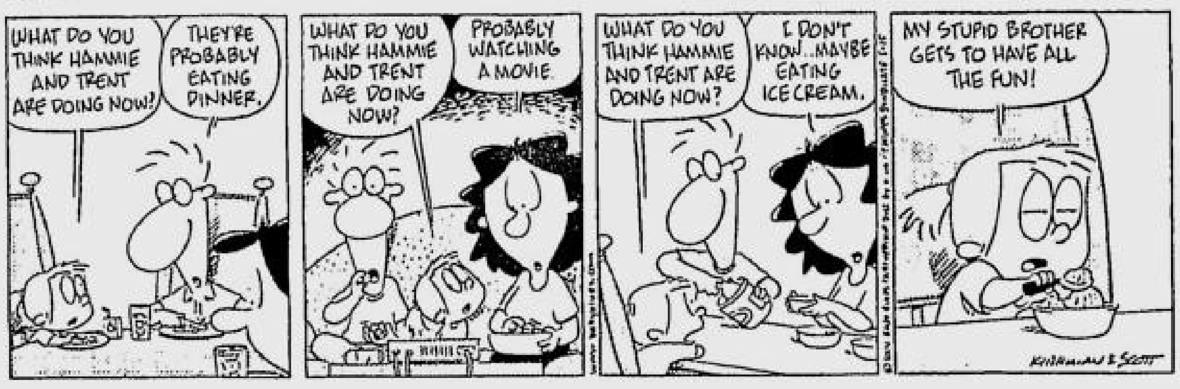
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SOME DOGS CHASE CARS TO PROVE THEY'RE TOUGH.
SO WHAT DOES "TINY BREED COMPLEX" JUAN CHASE?
5-15
YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP
...AN 18-WHEELER.

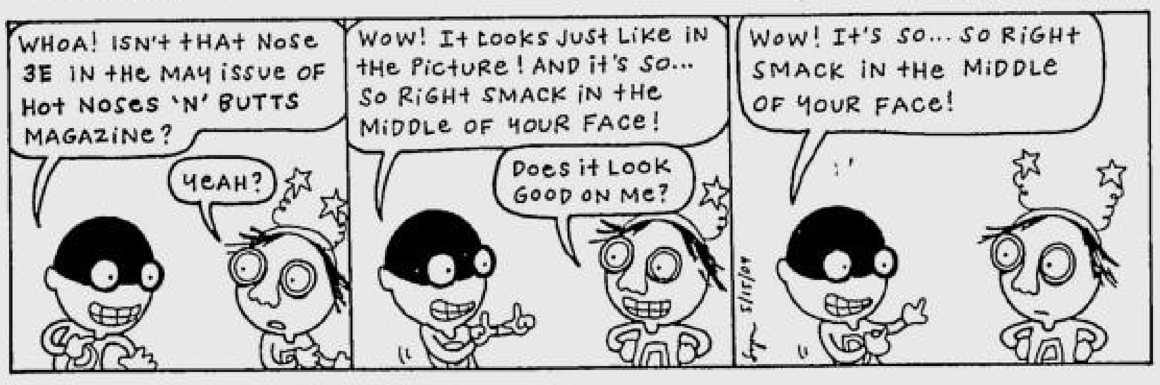
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT DO YOU THINK HAMMIE AND TRENT ARE DOING NOW?
THEY'RE PROBABLY EATING DINNER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAMMIE AND TRENT ARE DOING NOW?
PROBABLY WATCHING A MOVIE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAMMIE AND TRENT ARE DOING NOW?
I DON'T KNOW...MAYBE EATING ICE CREAM.
MY STUPID BROTHER GETS TO HAVE ALL THE FUN!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHOA! ISN'T THAT NOSE 3E IN THE MAY ISSUE OF HOT NOSES 'N' BUTTS MAGAZINE?
YEAH?
WOW! IT LOOKS JUST LIKE IN THE PICTURE! AND IT'S SO... SO RIGHT SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FACE!
DOES IT LOOK GOOD ON ME?
WOW! IT'S SO... SO RIGHT SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FACE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You enjoy the arts and have a wonderful imagination. You're popular because you know how to touch the hearts of people; nevertheless, you often work in solitude. Your hobbies can turn into your career. It's important to do what you love. Go after what you want this year. It's one of the most fortunate years in more than a decade!

Birthdate of: Mike Oldfield, composer/instrumentalist; Katherine Anne Porter. novelist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Now your attention turns to whatever you value in life. Because of this, you might want to define your sense of values. Do you know what they are?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have a strong urge to get out and travel. You're bored, and you want stimulation! The next few weeks are an excellent time for negotiations or contract discussions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're inclined to keep things to yourself right now. (Do you have a secret?) Perhaps you think others will hold something against you if you come clean.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Talk over problems with a friend. Younger people will enter your circle of acquaintances, giving you a new and freer point of view about things. Keep an open mind. (

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good time to make plans for your professional life. Ask yourself whether or not things are working out as you want them to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a perfect time to take up any kind of new course of study or experience that broadens your knowledge of the world. You're itching to learn something new!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You can expect discussions and negotiations about shared property, finances and anything that you hold jointly with someone else. Be fair.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're starting to seek more intellectual stimulation from others. You want some spirited debate about something that interests you!

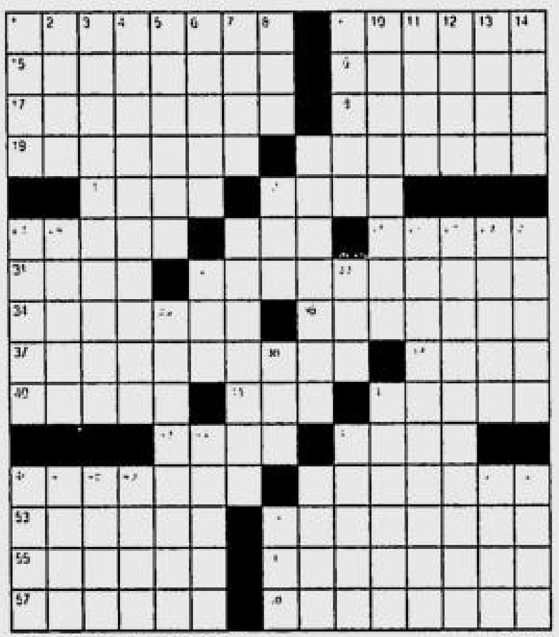
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your desire to do a job well puts you in the good books of someone at work now. Keep this up. You will feel much satisfaction and pride from your efforts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might want to pursue some mental activities just for their own sake. Mysteries, movies, reading for pleasure, video games and chatting with others appeal to you now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): An unusual discussion with one of your parents might bring out something about a past event that is bothering you. Either way, family discussions are significant now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The next few weeks are not a good time to settle down and relax. Quite the opposite: Get out and see people, and keep moving!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman 5/15/04
Chicago, IL

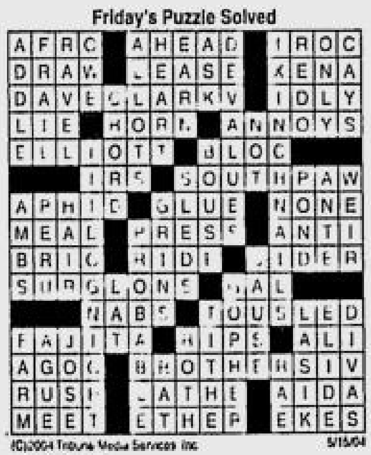
ACROSS

1 Inconstant
9 Mount
15 Resolves, as a disagreement
16 Posture
17 Rocket segment
18 Fictional jungle hero
19 Each citizen's due
20 Triumph
21 Feel sorry for
22 Brass component
23 Weight-loss schemes
25 Half a score
26 Rival of Sparta and Athens
31 Smidgen
32 Craving for candy
34 Deckhand
36 "Say the secret word" speaker
37 Knock off work
39 Secluded valley
40 Beginning
41 Champagne flavored with cassis
42 Former English county
43 Flush
45 Shape
46 Wakened
50 Hotel room amenity
53 Keanu Reeves flick, with "The"
54 State of delight
55 Freddie of "I Know What You Did Last Summer"
56 Eavesdrop
57 Answered tartly
58 Accurate

DOWN

1 Luigi's Chianti
2 "East of Eden" twin
3 Bridal path scattering
4 Bound to happen
5 Tie alternatives
6 Pirate's haul
7 Debussy's "Clair de ___"
8 Tours season
9 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
10 Disconnected, musically
11 Haul
12 Automaker Ferrari
13 Tenn. neighbor
14 Turn down
20 Oil's dressing partner
22 Last letter
23 "Saturday Night Fever" craze
24 Dubuque resident
25 Fine-tuned
27 San Juan Hill combatant
28 Tackle Everest
29 Catchall checkbox
30 Excelled
32 Perch
33 Sample
35 Appetizer dimensions
38 Tumult
42 Musical piece
44 Irritated
45 Winning position
46 Rock boxes
47 ___ avis
48 Singer Redding
49 Vases with bases
50 Principal
51 Indochine locale
52 1996 Tony winner
54 Arafat's grp.

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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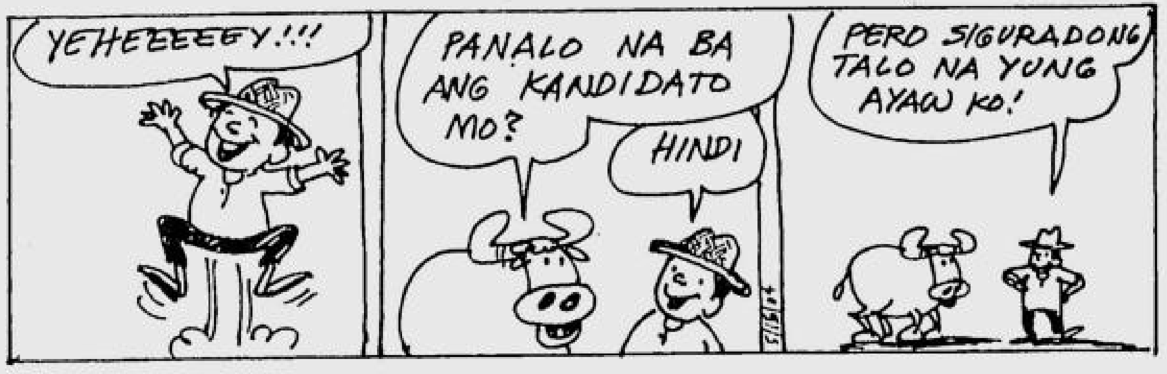
5/15/04

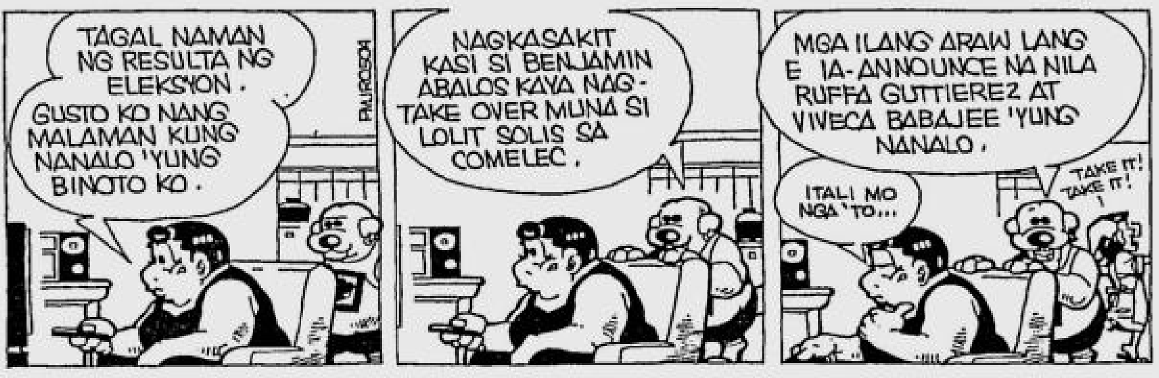
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YEHEEEEEY!!!
PANALO NA BA ANG KANDIDATO MO?
HINDI
PERO SIGURADONG TALO NA YUNG AYAW KO!

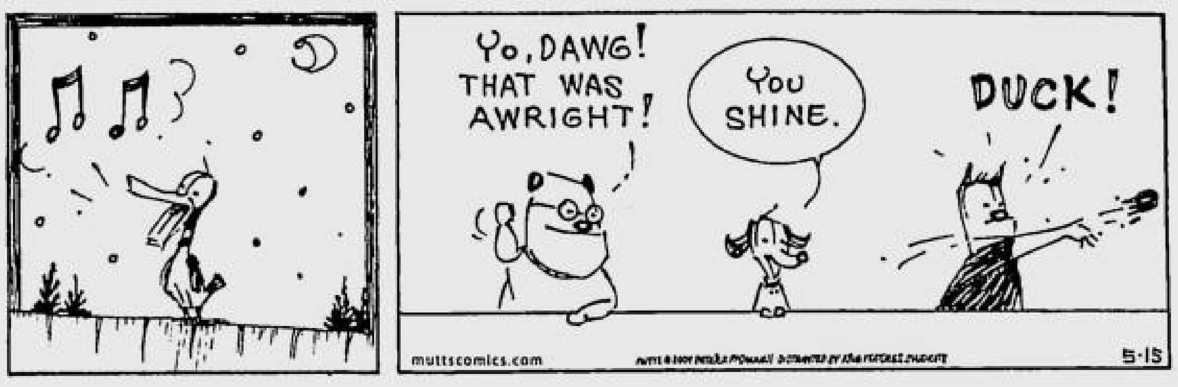
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TAGAL NAMAN NG RESULTA NG ELEKSYON.
GUSTO KO NANG MALAMAN KUNG NANALO 'YUNG BINOTO KO.
PMJR2004
NAGKASAKIT KASI SI BENJAMIN ABALOS KAYA NAG-TAKE OVER MUNA SI LOLIT SOLIS SA COMELEC.
MGA ILANG ARAW LANG E IA-ANNOUNCE NA NILA RUFFA GUTTIEREZ AT VIVECA BABAJEE 'YUNG NANALO.
ITALI MO NGA 'TO...
TAKE IT! TAKE IT!

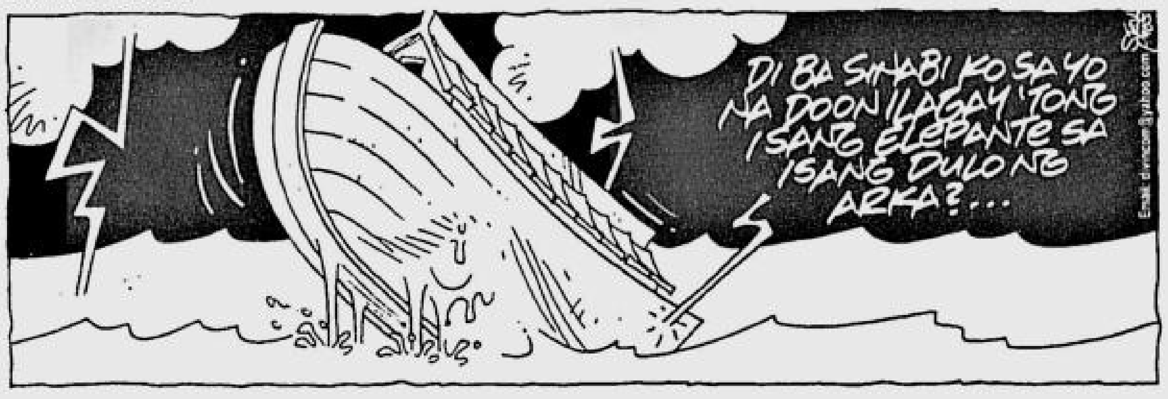
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YO, DAWG! THAT WAS AWRIGHT!
YOU SHINE.
DUCK!
muttscomics.com
5-15

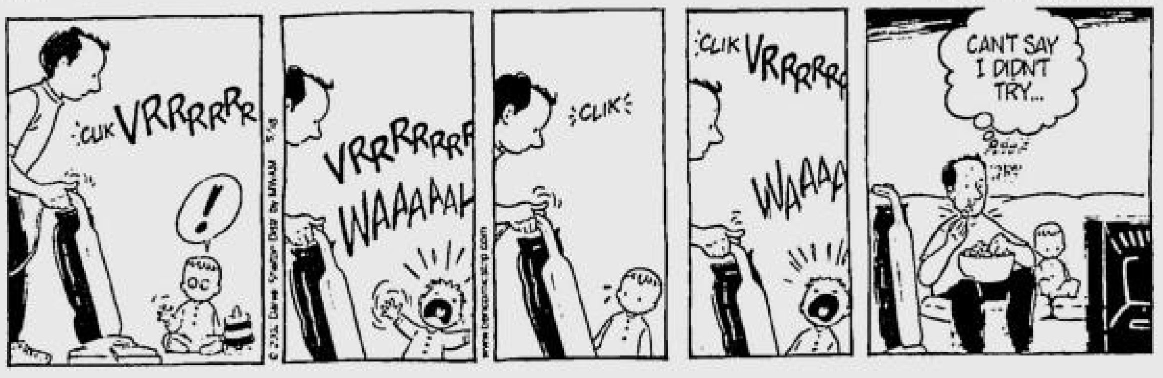
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DI BA SINABI KO SA YO NA DOON ILAGAY 'TONG ISANG ELEPANTE SA ISANG DULO NG ARKA?...

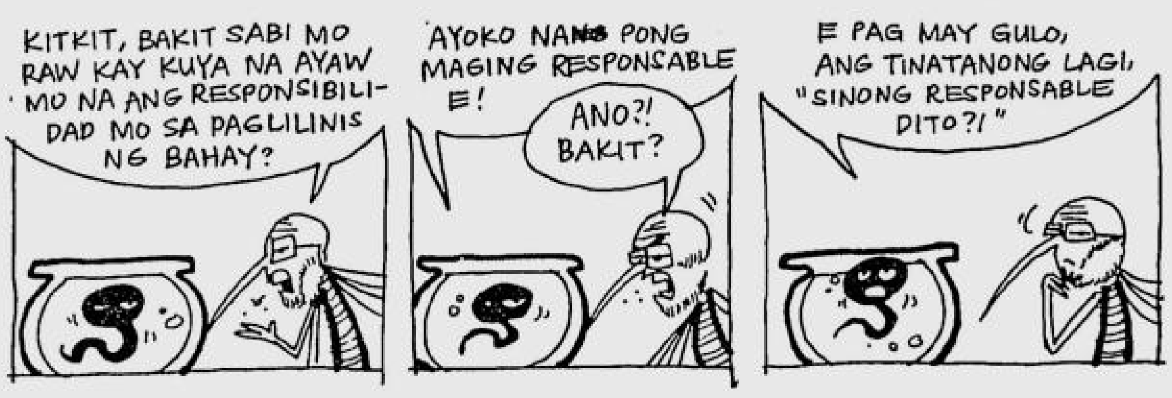
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CLIK VRRRRRR
!
VRRRRRRR
WAAAAAH
CLIK
CLIK VRRRRRR
WAAAA
CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T TRY...

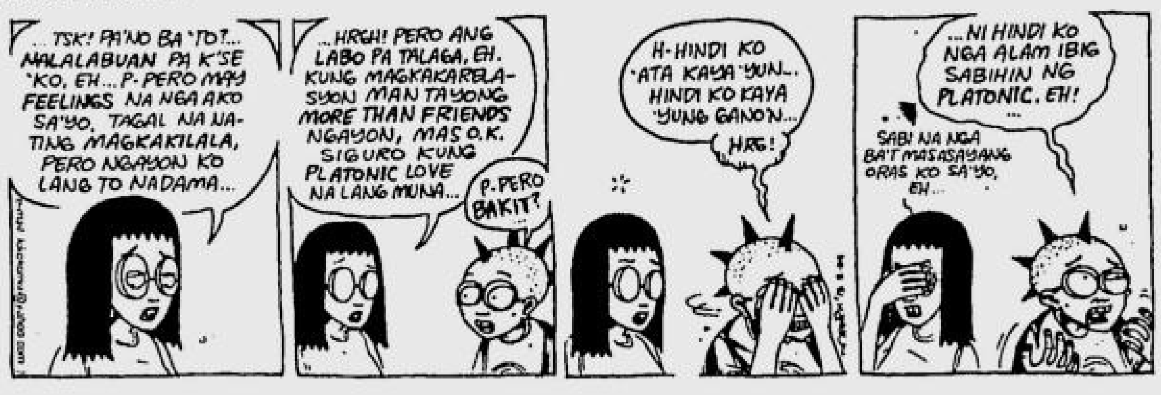
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KITKIT, BAKIT SABI MO RAW KAY KUYA NA AYAW MO NA ANG RESPONSIBILIDAD MO SA PAGLILINIS NG BAHAY?
AYOKO NA PONG MAGING RESPONSABLE E!
ANO?! BAKIT?
E PAG MAY GULO, ANG TINATANONG LAGI, "SINONG RESPONSABLE DITO?!"

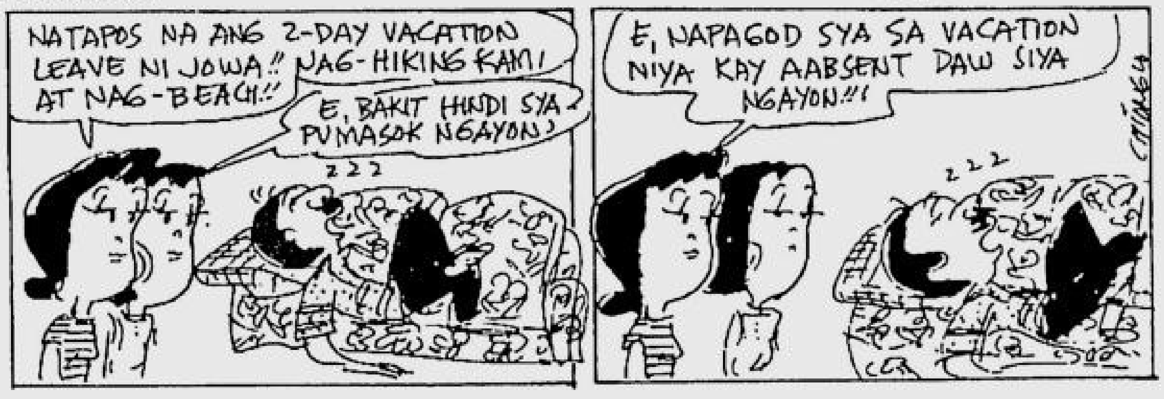
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...TSK! PA'NO BA 'TO?... NALALABUAN PA K'SE 'KO, EH... P-PERO MAY FEELINGS NA NGA AKO SA'YO. TAGAL NA NATING MAGKAKILALA, PERO NGAYON KO LANG TO NADAMA...
...HRGH! PERO ANG LABO PA TALAGA, EH. KUNG MAGKAKARELASYON MAN TAYONG MORE THAN FRIENDS NGAYON, MAS O.K. SIGURO KUNG PLATONIC LOVE NA LANG MUNA...
P-PERO BAKIT?
H-HINDI KO 'ATA KAYA 'YUN... HINDI KO KAYA 'YUNG GANO'N...
HRG!
...NI HINDI KO NGA ALAM IBIG SABIHIN NG PLATONIC, EH!
SABI NA NGA BA'T MASASAYANG ORAS KO SA'YO, EH...

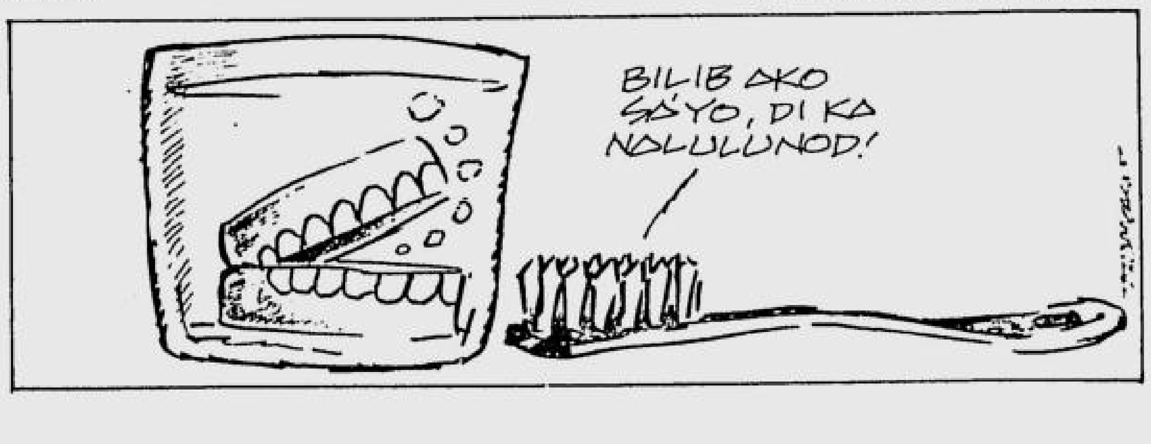
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NATAPOS NA ANG 2-DAY VACATION LEAVE NI JOWA!! NAG-HIKING KAMI AT NAG-BEACH!!
E, BAKIT HINDI SYA PUMASOK NGAYON?
ZZZ
E, NAPAGOD SYA SA VACATION NIYA KAY AABSENT DAW SIYA NGAYON!!!
ZZZ

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BILIB AKO SA'YO, DI KA NALULUNOD!

New album underscores rap sextet's problem

By Noelani Torre

IF you're a wanna-make-it-big rap group and you have a member who's only, like, the biggest rapper in the world, is it a blessing—or is it a curse?

This is rap sextet D12's inescapable problem—the presence of Eminem ensures talent, instant publicity and Dr. Dre, but the ultra-successful Mr. Mathers also casts a shadow as long and wide as only nine Grammys and a worldwide sale of 20 million records can make.

The group tries to come to terms with this in their sophomore album, "D12 World," and though they are at times successful—as in the parodist, "My Band"—Slim Shady is still the pervading force, as can be seen in their best tracks, like the aforementioned cut and the explosive opener, "Git Up."

Influence

Not surprising, really, as Eminem is the album's executive producer, and his influence isn't a bad thing, quality-wise.

It does, however, prove to be too overpowering for the rest of the crew.

Still, the crew—Bizarre, Proof, Kuniva, Kon Artis and Swift—are undoubtedly talented, even sans the Shady influence. —A fact that they've already established in their 2001 debut, "Devil's Night, and which they continue to prove in "D12 World's" better moments.

D12. Their only goal was to be like "verbal ninjas."

It helps that the guys have been rapping with each other for quite sometime. "We all knew each other growing up in Detroit," says Proof. "I used to sneak Em into my school lunchroom just so he could battle.

"Later, when we started battling once a month at Maurice Malone's Hip-Hop Shop, everybody had a crew. So, we decided to form our own. That's how D12 was born. Before we even thought about making records, our only goal was to be like verbal ninjas, and kick ass."

And though they are indeed aware of the downside to having a famous friend, they don't take it badly. "Em was able to take D12 to the next level," says rapper-producer Kon Artis. "He helps bring stuff out of us. With him, no matter what happens, it's always been about real friendship."

This brings us to the album's first single, "My Band," an ironic self-deprecating number that pokes fun at Em's fame and the relative obscurity of the rest of the crew.

"The entire 'My Band' track originated from a joke," explains Swift. "On the whole song, Em is just this lead singer who anoints us the cute one or the shy one. It's just a goof directed at the media."

It starts off with Em in boy band lead-singer mode telling us that he thinks "Everybody's all jealous/ 'Cause I'm, like, the lead singer of the band, dude/ And I think everybody's got a f***in' problem with me, dude."

This is topped off by an ultra-catchy refrain that goes: "These chicks don't even know the name of my band/ But they're all on me like they wanna hold hands."

The crew drops such sentiments as "Look at him, little punk ass, thinkin' he the sh*t," "We ain't a band bitch, we don't play instruments."

Novelty

This is the album's novelty track (like "Devil's Night's" "Purple Pills"), and it's also their best one. That Eminem still overshadows the others even as an object of fun, however, is the final irony.

The problem with "D12 World" is that it goes the same way that "Devil's Night" went—offensive but admittedly funny shock rap, mixed with a little funk. It's good stuff, but it's more or less just going over old ground.

Still, this latest release is much more cohesive than their earlier effort, no doubt the result of Em's light but sure touch as producer. We did say earlier that his influence pervades throughout the album, but this isn't because he forced it.

Indeed, the crew has many opportunities to display their skills in the CD's 15 tracks (excluding the dumb skits).

That they are outdone by a relatively subdued Shady is because they blend too easily together, except for the perverse, bass-voiced Bizarre and the raspy Proof.

Rhymes

At their best, however, all six play off each other smoothly and cleverly with the ease of long practice. The content of Bizarre's rhymes certainly stand out, though. His rhymes alone make the Parental Advisory Explicit Content warning on the inlay necessary.

With additional production by rap luminaries like Dr. Dre, Hi-Tek, Kayne West, and Trackboyz, the album is an hour's worth of kick-ass rap that can be very in-your-face, but also surprisingly serious and sincere (as in their tribute to fallen member Bugz, "Good Die Young").

We still can't help wondering, though, whether D12 can really have a future without superstar Slim Shady.

Kabayan flies high

KABAYAN, the eagle released last month, flies high in the wilderness of Mt. Apo, in Kidapawan, North Cotabato. The captive-bred, 17-month-old eagle cared for by the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in its simulated forest at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Davao City, is the first-ever eagle bred in captivity that has been released in its natural habitat.

13 eaglets

The center has hatched 13 eaglets, including Kabayan, since 1992. The eagles were surrendered to Dennis Joseph Salvador, executive director of PEF since 1990.

He received a TOYM Award for dedicating his time to saving the endangered eagle and its rainforest habitat.

What is so important about saving the eagle and its habitat? Places where plants and animals can live and reproduce are areas suitable for human habitation. The survival of these species ensures our own survival!

PRESIDENTIAL daughter Luli Arroyo witnessed the eagle's release in the wilderness of Mt. Apo.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

We were invited to witness Kabayan's historic flight. The eagle was placed in a cage for almost two weeks before it was released.

Procedures

Kabayan seemed hesitant at first, feeling where the wind blew. We were asked to follow procedures so as not to disturb the bird. Silence was to be observed at the hack site. I made a hole for my camera lens.

Guests who came to witness Kabayan's release included presidential daughter Luli Arroyo, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Elisea Gozon, Energy Secretary Vince Perez, EDC president Paul Aquino, Arlene De Castro, Jojo Paje, Gen. Cesar Tapia, Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol and PEF president Carlos Pedrosa.

Kabayan has not been left completely alone to fend for himself. Radio telemetry techniques are being used to track its movements through a VHF/satellite transmitter strapped to its back.

PEF partners at the Peregrine fund in the US assist in the project by monitoring the satellite readings every eight days. Now, Kabayan flies freely.

E-mail the author at mn_photocom@i-manila .com.ph or mandynavaseropro@yahoo.com

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Aga's dilemma

From page D1

and viewers, and had to make-do with occasional, insignificant roles.

Happily, after that long, lean period, Aga began to recover lost ground, got better roles in the movies, starred in a popular sitcom, and soon reenergized his career.

Stellar appeal

His well-publicized romances with great beauties enhanced his stellar appeal, particularly in the romantic comedies that became his signature metier.

Other moments of truth came when Aga decided to marry Charlene Gonzalez, and broke his ties with his manager, Ethel Ramos. But his fans didn't "penalize" Aga for getting married, and he and his manager soon got back together again, so no great harm was done.

That's why, today, Aga is one of our few romantic leading men who have a flourishing TV-film career. Despite the industry slump that has put so many stars out of work, Aga remains eminently bankable.

Gifted actor

However, his daunting dilemma is this: He's remained popular by doing sitcoms and romantic comedies, but these lightweight vehicles have undermined his reputation as a gifted actor.

Aga may be enjoying the perks of his lighthearted starrers, but he looks bored with doing the same undemanding thing over and over, just to keep his producers and fans happy.

Now in his 30s, it's time for him to turn more artistically ambitious in the projects he chooses to accept. He should play truly challenging roles, but the danger in that is that his fans may find them too serious for them to appreciate.

MUHLACH IN HIS TEENS. Well-publicized romances.

For instance, some years ago, Aga played a serial killer and did well in the role, but he shocked and turned off his fans.

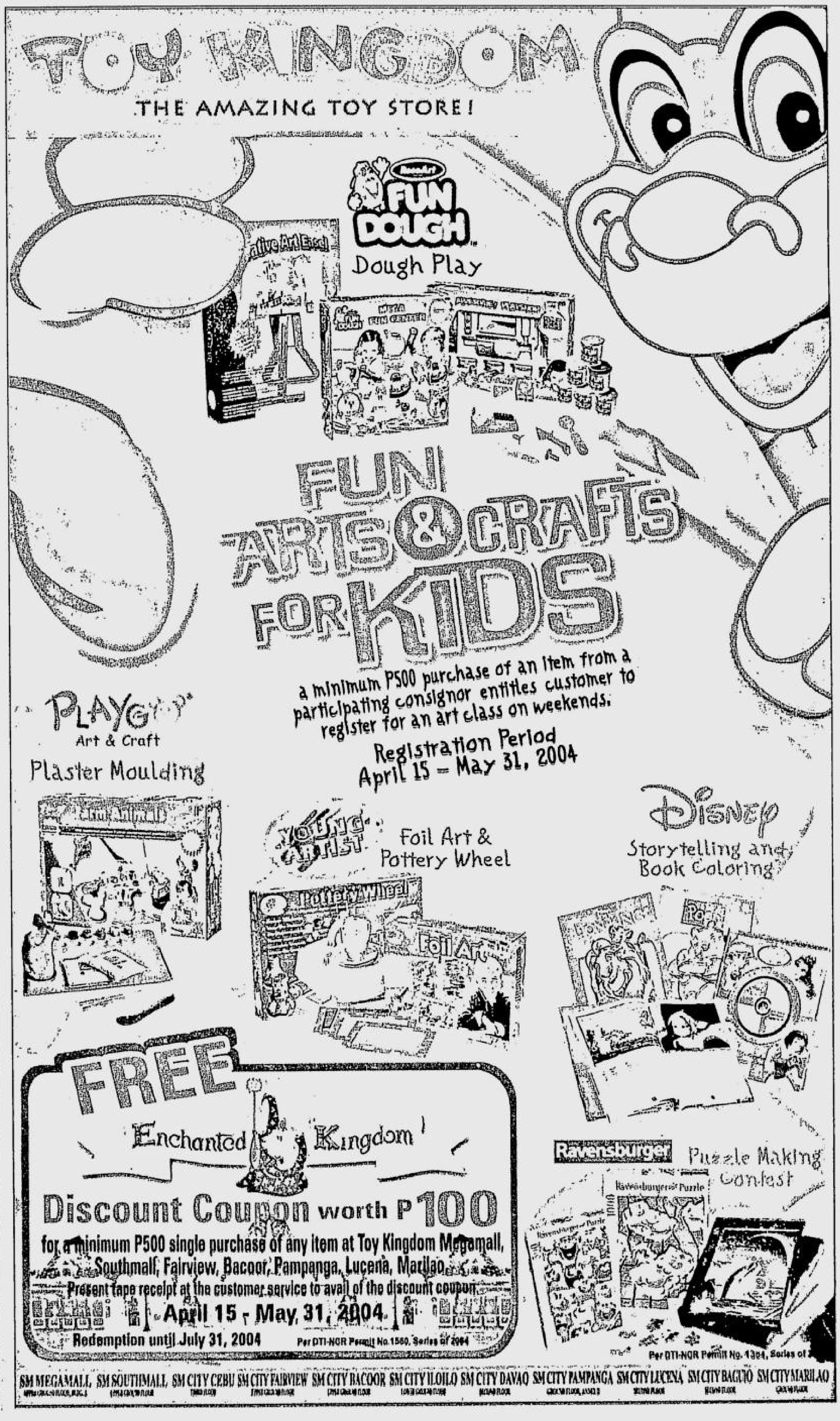
To recover the popularity he lost, he went back to the lightweight parts that have become his signature roles for years now.

Challenging drama

We submit, however, that Aga owes it to his talent to do a challenging drama this year. Will he redeem himself with his new starrer, "All My Life," which will start its run toward the end of the month?

If not, Aga should use his considerable clout with producers to line up a strong starrer for himself, to remind everyone of the thespic talent that used to set him apart from most of his contemporaries.

Above all, Aga owes it to *himself* to essay more demanding roles on the big and small screens. His artistic compromises have made him a wealthy young man. Now, it's time for Aga to do right by his gift as an artist.



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GLOBE SUMMER KODAKAN

SATURDAY *Special*

‘Thankful’ shows why Kelly Clarkson is no flash in the pan

By Rito P. Asilo

KELLY Clarkson, “American Idol’s” first grand-prize winner, delivers a winsome collection of ballads and dance music in her debut album, “Thankful.”

Clarkson is no flash in the pan. Long before she bested 10,000 aspiring singers on TV’s hottest talent search, she was an acting hopeful who left her hometown in Texas after high school to try her luck in Hollywood.

She landed as an extra on the series, “Sabrina, The Teenage Witch”—but after that, she could only find a waitressing job at a comedy club. Then, the “American Idol” phenomenon kicked in—and the rest is history.

When Clarkson’s debut album came out, we thought it wouldn’t fare better than the usual amateurish mush prevalent among vocally powerful but artistically staid talent search winners.

Middle ground

But, “Thankful,” a No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 chart, conveniently finds a middle ground in Clarkson’s radio-friendly pop tunes, her vibrant vocal acrobatics, and the musical innovations her musical team infuses to transcend pop fluff and melodramatic froth.

The 21-year-old singer wrote four of the album’s 12 songs: “The Trouble With Love,” “Thankful,” “You Thought Wrong” and the carrier, “Miss Independent,” a track she co-wrote with Christina Aguilera, in which she sounds like the pierced vocal wonder.

Clarkson’s versatility is on full display as she switches from ballad to dance with relative ease, and effortlessly belts and croons from one note to the next—musical tricks that keep her songs vibrant, tasteful and generally schmaltz-free. More than its sleek production sheen, the album utilizes the singer’s beautiful, powerful pipes that rarely employ vocal histrionics just to make treacly lyrics come alive:

The corny lyrics? In her No. 1 hit, “A Moment Like This,” Clarkson sings: “I want to know that you’ll catch me when I fall.” In Desmond Child’s “Before Your Love,” she swears: “I never lived before your love.” Oh, please!

Bonus tracks

Ironically, the chart-friendly “A Moment Like This” and “Before Your Love,” featured as bonus tracks in the album, were her winning songs on “American Idol.” Both were specifically written for the talent show.

Our top pick: “What’s Up, Lonely,” Clarkson’s groovesome, beautifully-arranged, pop jazz-tinged hymn for the brokenhearted, that features Larry Gold’s teasing, snapping, clapping string arrangement, and is speckled with classy touches of cello, viola and violin.

We also enjoyed the song’s unconventionally kitsch-free lyrics: “What’s up, lonely/ Seems you’re my only friend who wants to share my pain/ Tell me, heartache/ What’s it gonna take for you to leave me alone today/ Just when I think that you’re gone, you’re in the mirror staring back at me/ Don’t you think it’s time to move on? /Really getting tired of singing this sad song/ Gotta go, gotta move on…”

Harmony

Despite cheesy, neo-rock numbers like “Low,” Clarkson is served well by ear-friendly tracks: “Miss Independent” rustles and bustles—check out the bridge—with elegant vocal harmony, and so does the rollicking “Beautiful Disaster.”

Cliff Magness’ piano arrangement in “Just Missed the Train” sets an appropriate tone of urgency from the very start. Other charming tracks: the gospel-tinged “Anytime,” and the empowering “You Thought Wrong,” Kelly’s duet with Tamyra Gray.

CLARKSON. Her powerful pipes rarely employ vocal histrionics just to make treacly lyrics come alive.

Couples rule People’s ‘50 Most Beautiful’ list

NEW YORK—Couples rule People magazine’s list of “The 50 Most Beautiful People in the World 2004,” with cover girl Jennifer Aniston and her husband, Brad Pitt, among them.

ANISTON. Shares accolade with husband Pitt.

“I was an unfortunate-looking teenager,” Aniston tells the magazine in an interview. “I never felt beautiful, *ever*.”

She also says she and Pitt are “absolutely in the process” of trying to have a baby, which includes taking folic acid and setting aside a room in their new house for a possible nursery.

Husband-and-wife pop and reality TV stars Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey—who

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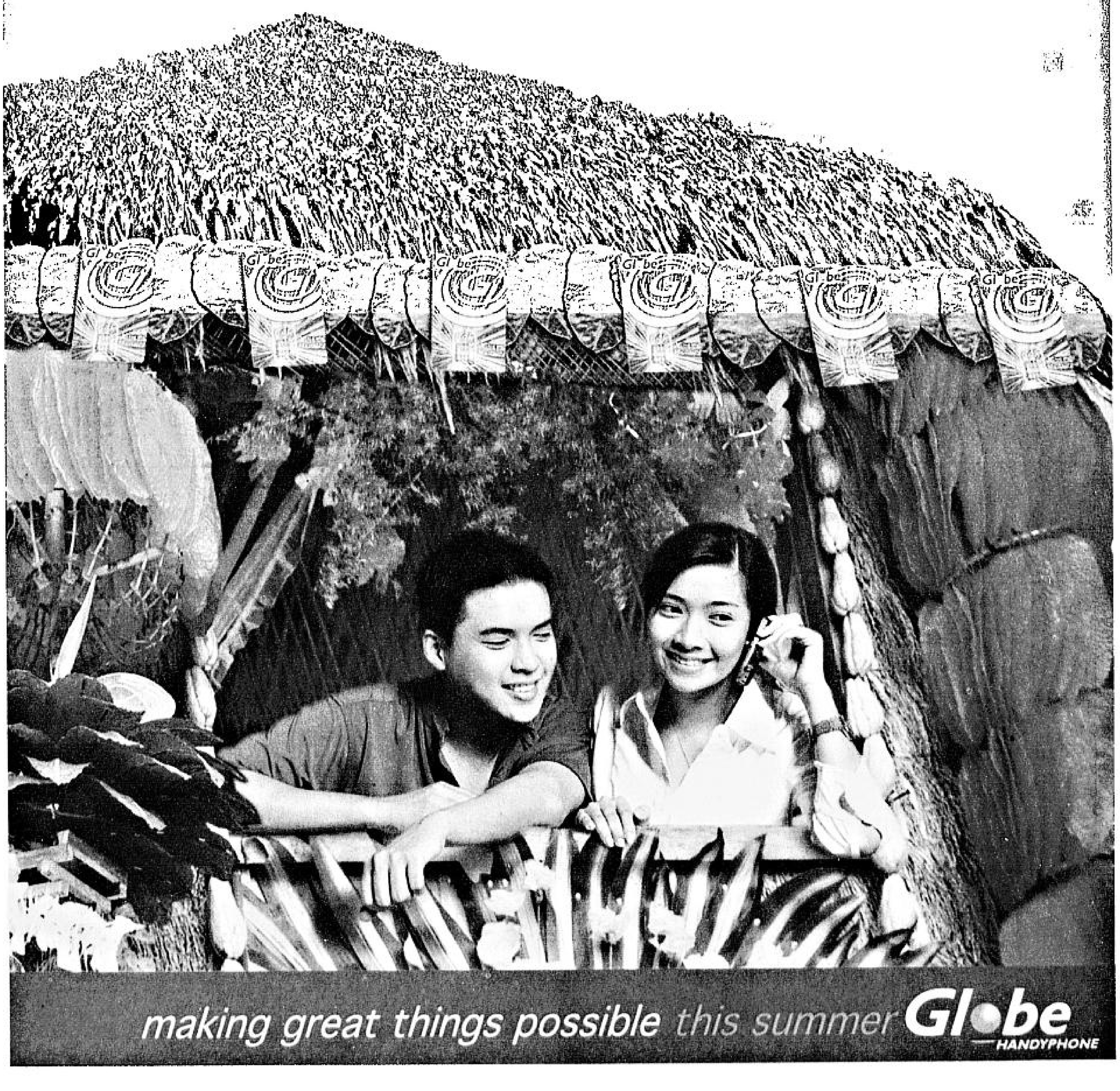
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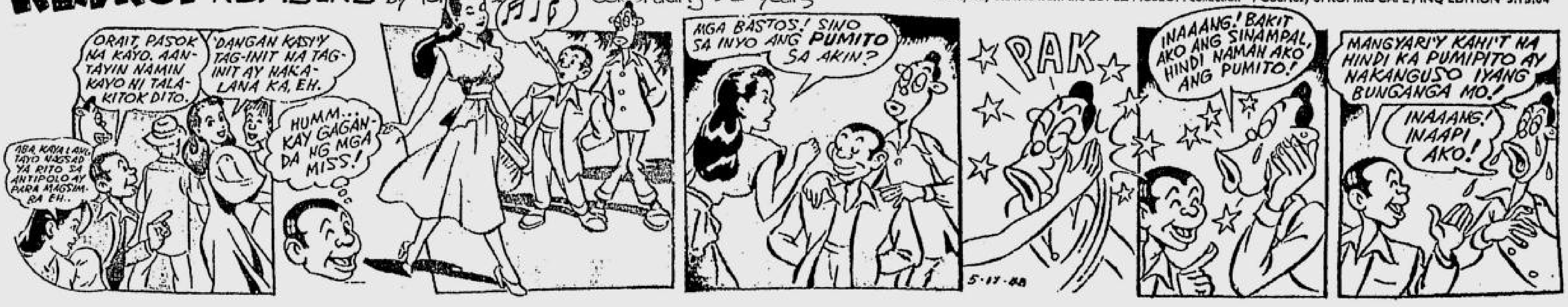
ORAIT, PASOK NA KAYO. AANTAYIN NAMIN KAYO NI TALAKITOK DITO.
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ABA, KAYA LANG TAYO NAGSAD YA RITO SA ANTIPOLO AY PARA MAGSIMBA EH..
HUMM... KAY GAGANDA NG MGA MISS!
MGA BASTOS! SINO SA INYO ANG PUMITO SA AKIN?
PAK
INAAANG! BAKIT AKO ANG SINAMPAL, HINDI NAMAN AKO ANG PUMITO!
MANGYARI'Y KAHI'T NA HINDI KA PUMIPITO AY NAKANGUSO IYANG BUNGANGA MO!
INAAANG! INAAPI AKO!
5-17-48

'Friends' bids farewell after 10 years

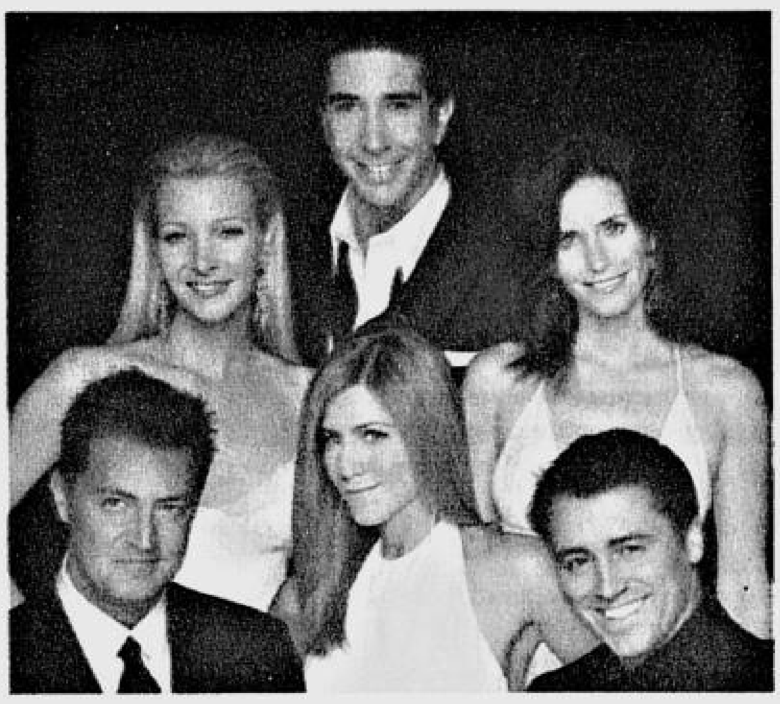
NEW YORK—With a record audience anticipated and top prices being charged for coveted commercial time, TV's beloved "Friends" faced its final curtain call last Thursday in the 236th and last episode.

Through 10 years of friendship and romantic entanglements, the six New York "Friends" became an integral part of each other's lives, and came to define a generation, being embraced even in Europe and India.

Final episode

To mark the occasion, NBC planned a two-hour "celebration" recapping classic "Friends" moments as a prelude to the final episode.

Touted as a time when "the six friends prepare to say goodbye," the show was notably expected to give answers to some questions fans have long pondered, such as whether Ross and Rachel will finally end up together after years of on-again, off-again romance and angst.



THE CAST of NBC's well-loved sitcom: (Clockwise from bottom left) Perry, Kudrow, Schwimmer, Cox, LeBlanc and Aniston.

It was an answer the show's creators held close to the vest, with Ross vacillating in the two most recent episodes between encouraging Rachel to take her dream job in Paris and trying to keep her close by.

The six chums have really grown up in the past decade. Monica and Chandler are moving to the suburbs and are in the process of adopting a baby. Phoebe, long a swinging single, is settling into married life.

Big break

And Joey, an actor, is leaving New York to try for his big break in Hollywood. The character will be featured in an eponymous spin-off, which could well feature cameo appearances by the other five "Friends" cast members.

Most of the six were virtual unknowns when they made their debut on television sets across the United States in 1994, before rising to star status and becoming the trendsetters they have grown to be. *AFP*

Upbeat ending gives 'Kill Bill, Vol. 2' emotional resonance

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—If "Kill Bill, Vol. 1" was like a roundhouse kick to the head, "Kill Bill, Vol. 2" is practically a warm hug.

Oh, there's still plenty of violence in the second half of Quentin Tarantino's samurai-kung fu-spaghetti Western-blaxploitation megamix. A knock-down, drag-out cat fight in which Uma Thurman and Daryl Hannah destroy a trailer (and each other) with amazonian fury is a prime example.

Blood and gore

There just isn't the kind of cartoonish blood and gore that saturated the first film, which came out last fall. "Vol. 2" ends on a note that could almost be described as heartwarming, with Thurman's character—a vengeful assassin known as The Bride—finding happiness in a traditional way.

Is Tarantino going soft? Hardly. "Vol. 2" is every bit as thrilling as the first, but it also features more of the stylized, rhythmic dialogue that has become the writer-director's trademark through films like "Pulp Fiction."

This gives the second film an emotional resonance that the first lacked, and it brings the enormity of the whole project into perspective.

Varied styles

I'd still like to see both parts shown together in a theater; cinematographer Robert Richardson shot "Kill Bill" so breathtakingly and in so many varied styles, it seems watching the film in its entirety at home on DVD wouldn't do it justice.

Tarantino has said he released "Vol. 2" several months after "Vol. 1" because it would have been too much of a sensory overload for audiences to sit through the whole thing at once.

THURMAN. Her character eventually finds happiness in a conventional way.

I was among the many critics who decried Miramax's decision to divide the film as "a marketing ploy to get filmgoers to pay twice." I'd be curious now, though, to experience both halves melded together.

The cliffhanger ending of "Vol. 1" revealed that the baby taken from The Bride while she was in a coma is still alive. In "Vol. 2," she sets out to get revenge on the rest of her former comrades in the Deadly Viper Assassination Squad who tried to kill her on her wedding day.

Main character

There's Budd (Michael Madsen), the sleazy brother of her former lover and boss, Bill. There's the eyepatch-wearing Elle Driver (Hannah), who has become the top killer in The Bride's absence. And, of course, there's Bill himself—represented only in rich, baritone voiceovers in "Vol. 1," but now a main character played by David Carradine. *AP*

Euphemisms and understatements

By Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL show biz is full of fascinating or off-putting idiosyncracies, not the least of which are the euphemisms and understatements of the year that pepper its denizens' collective vocabulary.

A favorite show biz euphemism has to do with starlets' romantic involvements. They may already be shacking up together with a baby on the way, but they'll stoutly maintain, "Oh no, friends *lang talaga kami.*"

Incriminating photos

Even when they're pushed to the wall, with incriminating photos showing them in a hot clinch, the most they'll admit to is, "OK, *sige*, MU (mutual understanding) *kami.*" That makes their hot affair sound as harmless as holding hands!

Why the sickeningly sweet coyness? Because fans like their show biz crushes available and all too themselves—never mind if it's an utter illusion that can't but lead to soul-crushing disillusionment.

The weird consequence to all this is, when the couple eventually splits up, they say they can't confirm the end of the affair because "we never admitted we were on, did we?" Oh, please.

Jobless

Another popular euphemism is resorted to by TV-film stars who are currently unemployed, as so many of them are these days. They can't admit that they are jobless and completely without future prospects, for fear of losing face and coming off as has-beens.

So, when asked about their forthcoming roles, they brightly lie through their teeth: "*Maraming* offers, *pinagpipilian pa namin.*" After all, the truth would hurt their career prospects in a big way!

What about former stars, would they consider making a comeback? "Why not, *basta ba maganda ang* offer." —That's the euphemistic response.

Of course, the hidden reality is, "Are you kidding? I'll accept *any* role, no matter how small—but nobody's offered me anything in the past five years!"

As for bold stars, they are full of euphemistic rationalizations about the shocking things they do each time they face the cameras.

Sex on demand

The most common euphemistic declaration is "*Trabaho lang ito, walang personalan.*" But nudity and sex on demand for the movie camera can't be anything *but* personal, so rationalizations are understandably in order.

Other related cover-ups that bold stars resort to: "I don't owe anybody any explanations. Why, do they put food on my table?" And: "I'm doing this to support my family, to give my loved ones a better life!" What can you say to counter *that?*

What about understatements of the year? They are vividly represented by the blanket statement that celebrities resort to when they tangle with each other—which is often: "It's just a misunderstanding."

Protagonists

The truth, of course, is hardly as facile. The scrapes and cat fights they get into aren't results of any misunderstanding at all. The celebrity protagonists and antagonists involved understand *perfectly* what they're fighting about, and why.

But, when their conflicts threaten to affect their careers in a negative way, they have to pick up the pieces, lie, and dismiss everything as "just a misunderstanding."

—That's show biz!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 15 - MAY 21

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
	6 30 Star in A Million 7:30 TV Patrol 8 00 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 9 00 Home Along da Airport 10 00 Victim 11 00 Kontrobersyal 11 30 Sports Unlimited	6 00 National Geographic 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8 00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	4 00 PBA Games 9 00 Sing Galing 10 00 Lente 11 00 ABC Treats	6 00 Starstruck Kids 7 00 Imbestigador 8 00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9 30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10 30 Celebrity Turns 11 30 Master Showman	6 00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7 00 7 Days 8 00 John Doe 9 00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11 00 PGMA	6 00 Darling Talk 7 00 Bitag 8 00 Hatol ng Bayan 9 00 Opinyon at Desisyon (Replay) 10 00 Global Family Series 11 00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6 00 Sports TV 6 30 Game Plan 7 00 7th Heaven 7 50 America's Next top Model 8 40 Boston Public 9 30 Studio 23 Presents 11 15 Reel Deel	6 00 Agila Reports 6 30 Screen Savers 7 30 Euromaxx 8 00 Car Guys 8 30 DWTV Journal 9 00 Ang Tamang Daan 10 00 Pasugo	6 00 RJ Music Videos 9 00 Music Videos 10 00 Music Videos 11 00 Music Videos
	5 30 Sharon 7 00 Wansapanataym 8 30 Tanging Ina 9 30 Sunday Family Cinema 11.30 The Weekend News	6 00 15th Mitsubishi Lancer Int'l Juniors Tennis Championships 9 00 Go For Gold 11 00 Unlimited Diving	4 00 PBA Games 9 00 Viva Cine Idols *Madaling Mamatay, Mahirap Mabuhay*	5 30 Partners Mel & Jay 7.00 KI 8 30 Daddy Di Do Du 9.30 Sunday Night Box Office	6 00 Smack Down Wrestling 7 00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8 00 May Puso ang Batas 9 00 Sunday's Big Event 11 00 URRC TV	6 00 Home Shopping Network 7 00 Retro TV (replay) 8 00 Legacy of Hero 9 00 In This Corner 10 00 Global Family Series 11 00 MTV Filler 11 30 El Shaddai	6 00 Mr Bean 6 30 Nginig 7 00 Survivor 8 00 Two & a Half Men 8 30 Just Shoot Me 9 00 Will & Grace 9 30 F 10 15 Digital Tour 10 45 Joe Millionaire 11 30 Night Visions	6 00 Captured 6 30 Fresh Gear 7 00 Convergence 7 30 Euromaxx 8 00 New Yankee Workshop 8 30 DWTV Journal 9 00 Ang Tamang Daan 10 00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	5 00 RJ Music Videos 9 00 Music Videos 10 00 Music Videos 11 00 Music Videos
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Local movie slump takes a turn for the worse

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME weeks ago, we observed that the local movie industry's years-long slump was taking a turn for the worse, with only around three new Filipino movies being shown each month. This, in disheartening contrast to the old rate of two new local movies that used to open each week, some years ago.

Recently, our dire observation was affirmed by statistics that paint an even grimmer picture: In the first quarter of 2004, only eight Filipino movies were shown.

AUNOR. Her comeback flick, "Naglalayag," is one of the official entries in next month's Manila filmfest.

Major concern

That's less than one per week, and truly cause for major concern. If this keeps up, our movie producers will be making less than 50 films this year—only about one-third of our total annual output a decade ago.

This is disastrous, because it means that some two-thirds of all movie jobs that kept film workers gainfully employed 10 years ago are no longer to be had. As a result, some heretofore big stars are having a tough time, and bit workers are faring even worse.

In fact, many movie stuntmen have now been forced to work as taxi drivers. We aren't knocking the taxi trade, but it really is a far cry from making movies, isn't it?

Disaster

The situation is a disaster not only for movie people, but also for moviehouses, which have fewer films to screen, and are thus earning less than they used to.

And moviegoers watch mostly Hollywood productions these days, thus worsening their colonial mentality. —It's a lose-lose situation all around!

The problem is compounded by the fact that many of the few local movies that *are* produced and shown have fared badly at the tills.

These relative flops further discourage producers from bankrolling new projects, thus exacerbating the already dismal situation.

The few bright spots on the horizon include the film festivals and competitions that are held here, especially the Manila Film Festival in June, and the Metro Manila filmfest in December.

Contribution

Just between the two of them, these annual festivals contribute some 12 movies to our total yearly output—a major contribution, in the light of our diminished production. Festival films also generally do better at the tills than movies shown at other times.

So, more festivals and tilts should be encouraged, which is why we are heartened by reports that Film Year 2005 will see the initiation of more new festivals for Filipino productions.

Couples rule People's . . .

From page E1

are everywhere else these days—also made the list.

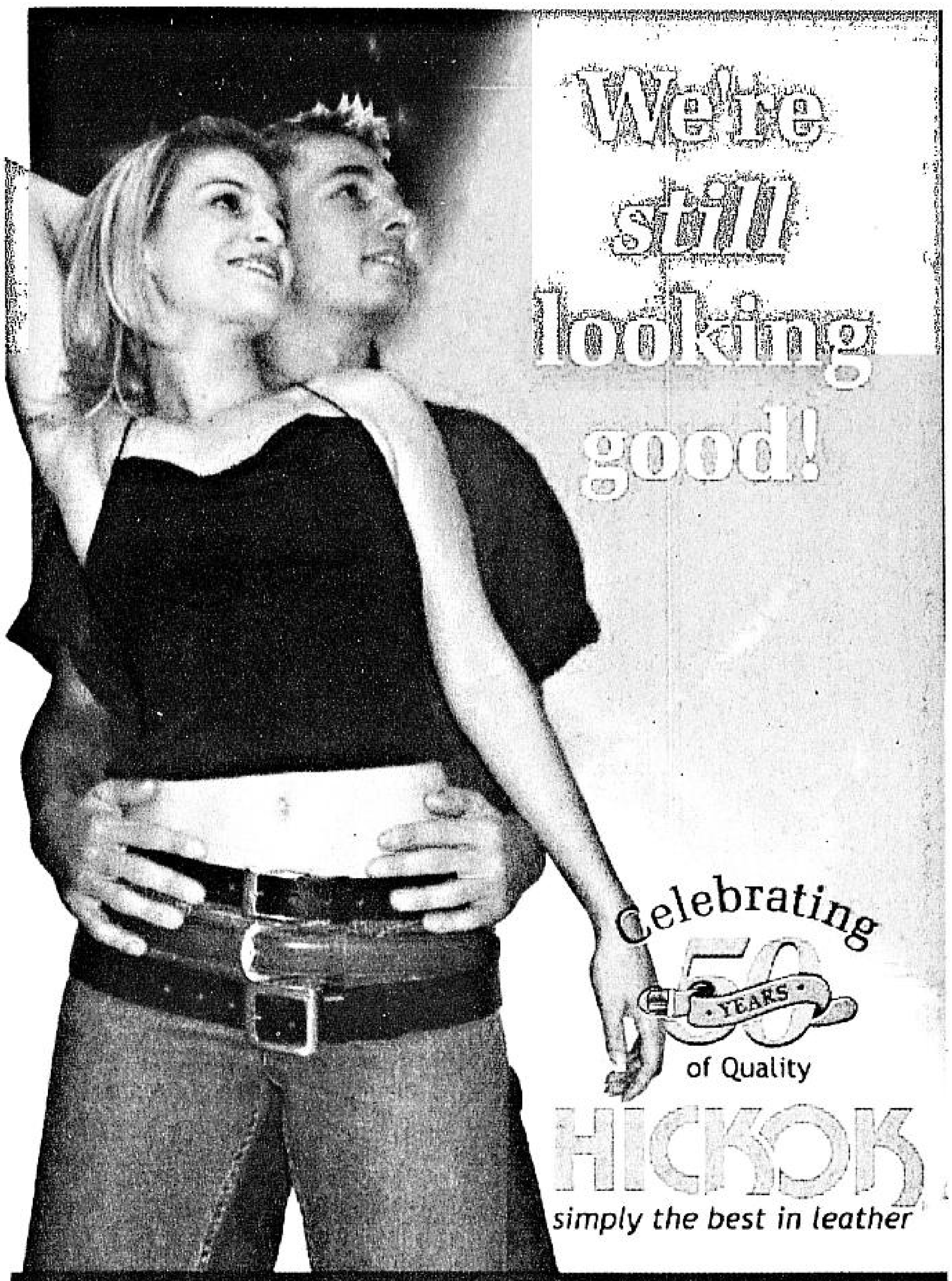
So did Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen—though technically, they're not a couple—but they are twins, and they co-star in the movie, "New York Minute."

Another set of sisters—models Alexandra and Theodora Richards, the daughters of Rolling Stone Keith Richards—also made the list.

Halle Berry is among the magazine's beauties for the eighth time, tying Julia Roberts for the most appearances.

Nicole Kidman makes her sixth appearance, and fellow Aussie Hugh Jackman is on the list for the fourth year in a row.

The sports world is represented by New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez, NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. and US Olympic softball pitcher Jennie Finch. *AP*



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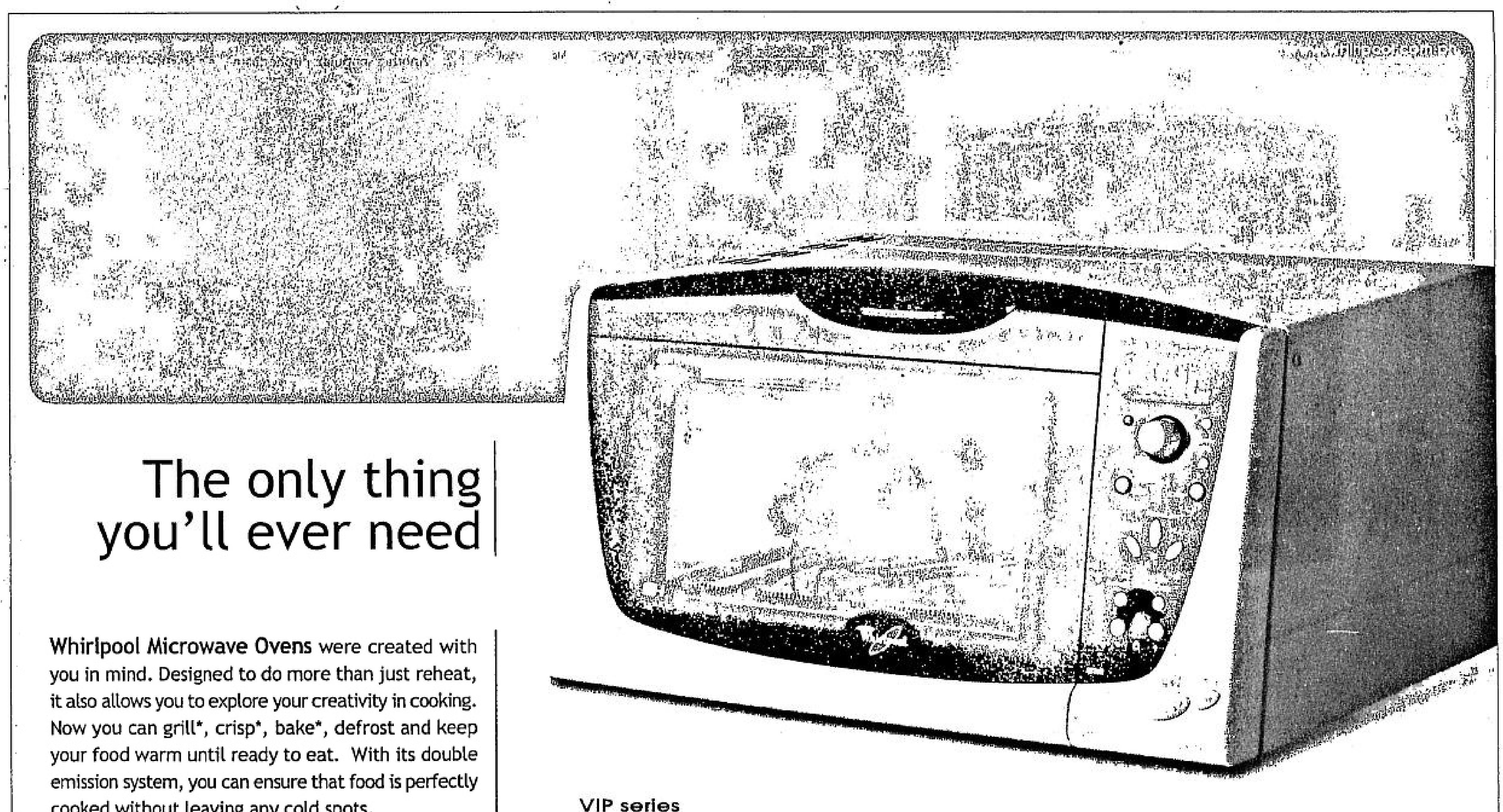

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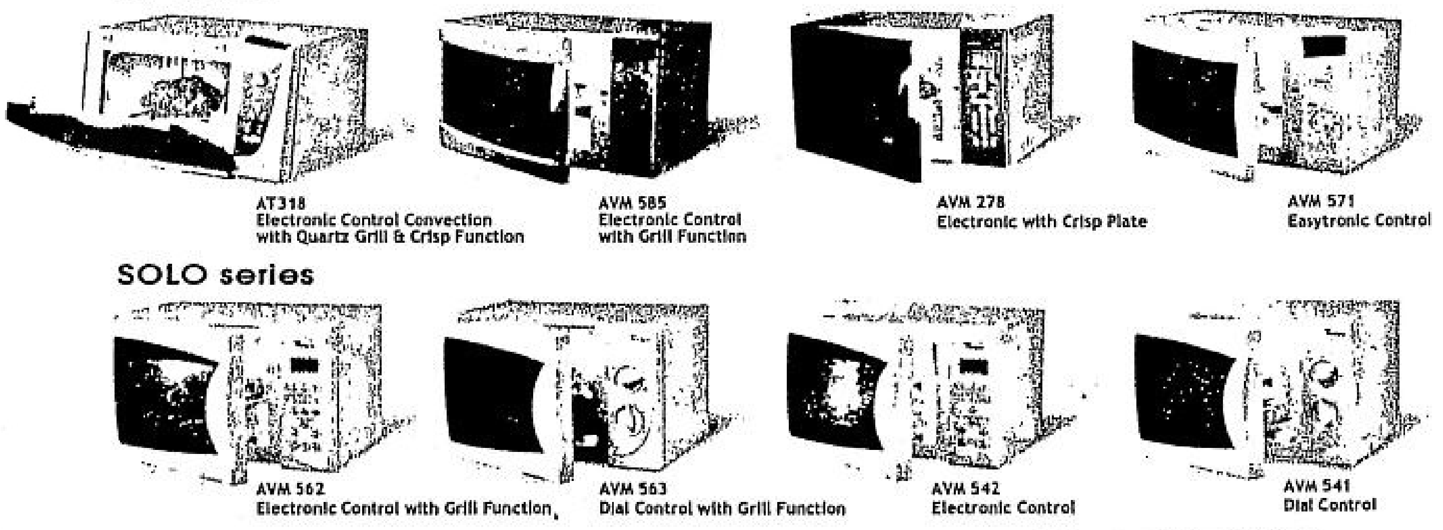

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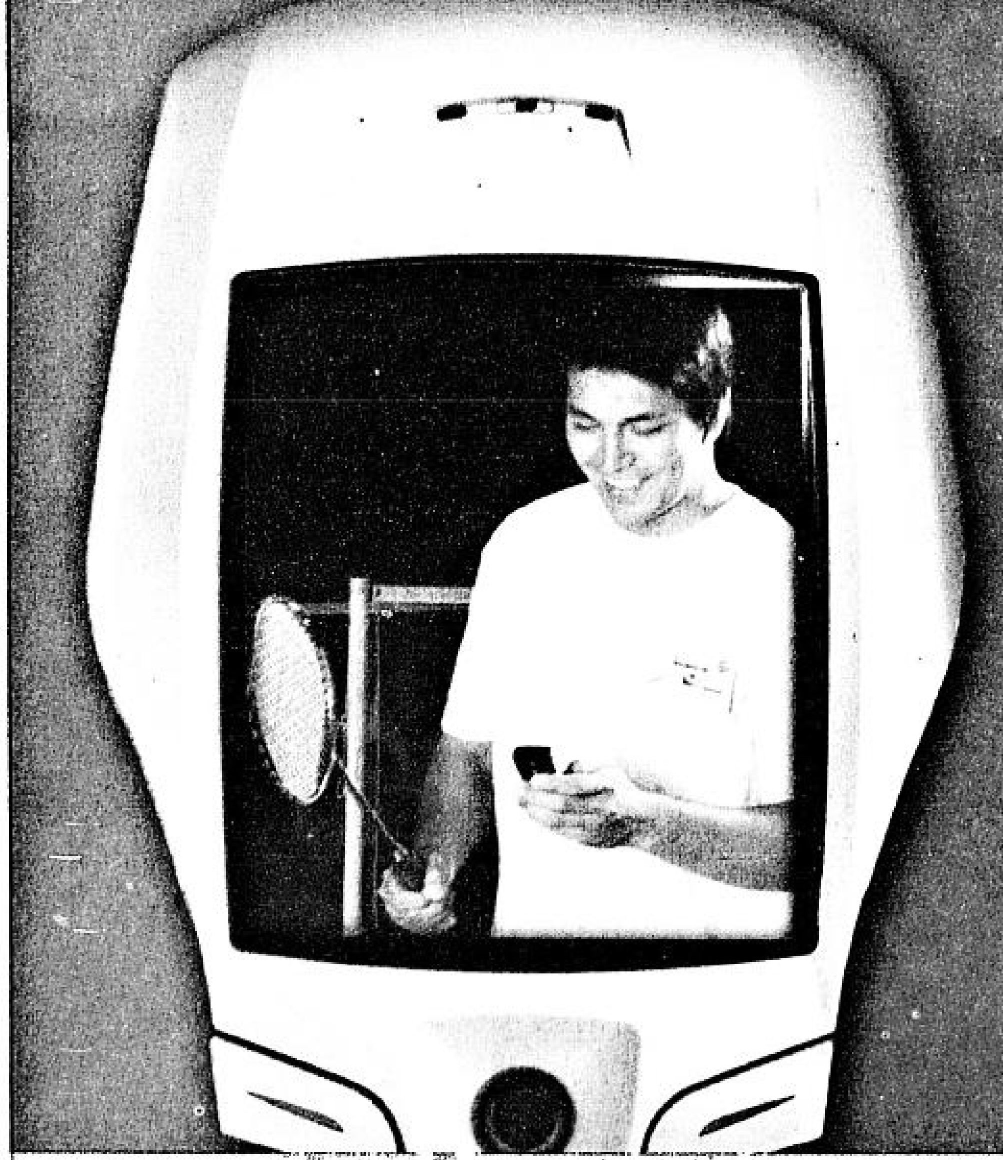

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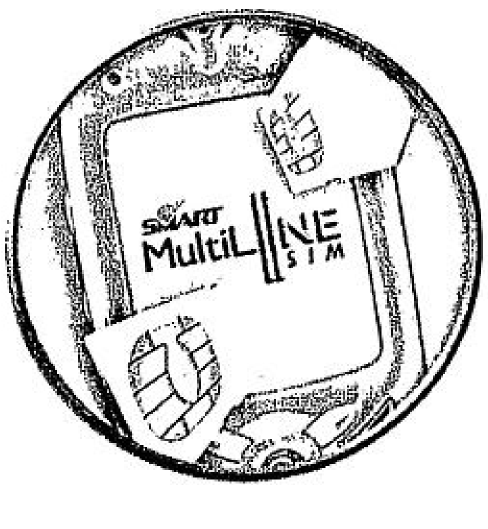

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'Troy' star has face to launch 1,000 ships

KRUGER. Beat Nicole Kidman and Julia Roberts for the role of Helen.

BERLIN—She had a face that launched a thousand ships and was supposed to be the most beautiful woman in the world.

But the actress who plays Helen in the new film, "Troy," was a complete unknown even in her native Germany before director Wolfgang Petersen plucked her from obscurity to star with Brad Pitt in one of the most expensive films ever made.

Diane Kruger beat established Hollywood stars such as Nicole Kidman and Julia Roberts, who were reportedly eager to play Helen in Petersen's $200-million film based on Homer's epic poem, "The Iliad."

World premiere

"I'm totally overwhelmed," 27-year-old Kruger told a news conference in Berlin at "Troy's" world premiere. "I can hardly believe this has really happened to me. It's a dream come true." Helen of Troy is one of the most legendary women in the history of literature, and the indirect cause of the Greek-Trojan war.

"I had to gain 15 lbs. for the role," Kruger said—an order from Petersen to give the former model a more-rounded look.

She said she has since lost all seven kilos.

Petersen, who left Germany for Hollywood in 1987, said he was searching for a new face with classic beauty. He insisted he didn't realize that Kruger was German until after he had picked her from a pack of 3,000 video tape auditions.

Right choice

"I wanted to find a new face, an unknown, sort of like what happened with Natassja Kinski," Petersen said. He said that when he finally met Kruger in person, he was sure he had made the right choice.

Kruger grew up in Germany, in the small town of Hildesheim near Hanover, where she was known as Diane Heidkrueger.

She later studied at the Royal Ballet School in London. A knee injury at 13 cut her ballet career short, and she turned to modeling, winning several contests.

Best young talent

She now lives in Paris with her husband, French actor Guillaume Canet. She shortened her name to Kruger. She won a best young talent prize at the 2003 Cannes festival.

She will next appear with Nicolas Cage in "National Treasure," "Copying Beethoven," with Ed Harris and "Merry Christmas"—a film about the World War I truce when German, French and British soldiers stopped shooting to play football for a few remarkable hours.

Reuters

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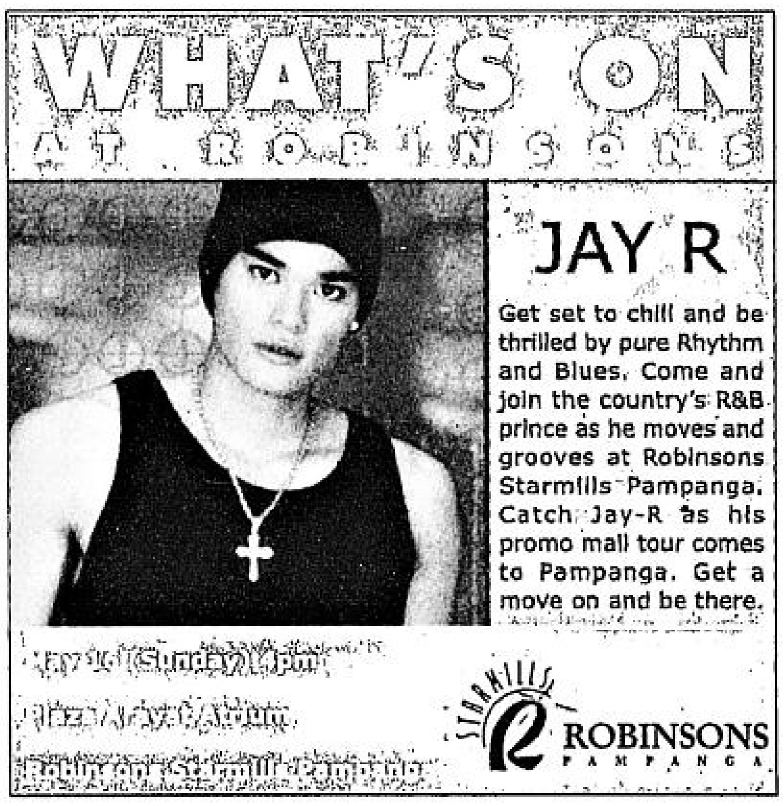
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Cannes film festival opens with impressive star wattage

CANNES, France—The Cannes film festival began its annual 12-day swirl of projections, parties and publicity last Wednesday after finessing a last-minute deal with protesting French arts workers to stop them from sabotaging the event.

Organizers have promised a revitalized festival high on star wattage and Hollywood drawcards, and one infused with the film-buff enthusiasm of this year's jury president, US director Quentin Tarantino.

Over the next week and a half, he and his co-panelists—among them actresses Kathleen Turner and Emmanuelle Beart—will be watching 18 movies vying for the prestigious Palme d'Or prize.

1,000 films

More than 1,000 other films are to be shown in the French Riviera city, whose population triples to around 210,000 during the festival, creating a cocktail of movie wheeling-and-dealing, media scrums, celebrity appearances and festive excesses.

The opening night screening provided a counterpoint to all that in the form of Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's "Bad Education," a dark film about pedophilia and homosexuality.

BERNAL. Topbills Pedro Almodovar's "Bad Education" and Walter Salles' "The Motorcycle Diaries."

It preceded the 18 competition films, many of which will be receiving their worldwide premieres.

Among them are US features "Fahrenheit 911," a documentary critical of US President George W. Bush's policies in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington, and "Shrek 2," the sequel to the blockbuster animation about a big, green ogre.

"The Life and Death of Peter Sellers," a British film about the chameleon-like comedic actor; "The Motorcycle Diaries," an Argentinian flick about Che Guevara's formative trip across Latin America as a youth, and "Old Boy," the latest movie by South Korean director Park Chan-wook, will also be seen.

Highlights

Out-of-competition highlights will be provided by "Troy"—the swords-and-sandals epic starring Brad Pitt, which was shown in Cannes and most other places globally last Thursday, four days after its world premiere in Berlin.

Pitt led a galaxy of stars up the red carpet, among them Charlize Theron, Maggie Cheung, Cameron Diaz, Gong Li, Penelope Cruz, Uma Thurman, Tom Hanks, Sharon Stone and Sean Penn.

The behind-the-scenes "market" section of the festival—where movie projects, real or imagined, are bargained over—is set to attract 10,000 industry types. Many critics have already started billing the festival as likely to be one of the best ever. *AFP*

Twista's 'Kamikaze' is worth the long wait

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

IN the opening track, "Get Me," of Twista's "Kamikaze" album, the speed rapper warns: "Come and enter Twista's realm/ Journey with me through the pain/ The hurt might make you envision drama that can turn you insane/ How much of my chaos brings tears?"

Vocal sampling

But the album is not as violent in the Kanye West-produced "Overnight Celebrity." Elements from "Cause I Love You" and Lennie Williams' vocal sampling give the track a funky, classy appeal.

In his No. 1 single, "Slow Jamz," Aisha Tyler's vocal improvisations, West and Jamie Foxx's verses, a sped-up Luther Vandross sampling from Burt Bacharach and Hal David's "A House Is Not A Home," are skillfully mixed with Twista's lightning-speed delivery.

Elsewhere, the controversial R. Kelly delivers one of his sexy, stylish guest performances, this time with silk-voiced chanteuse, JS, in "So Sexy."

If you liked his 1997 single, "It Feels So Good" (from his debut album, "Adrenaline Rush"), there's a worthy "sequel" here: "Still Feels So Good."

We don't like it, though, when the album switches to ghetto-music mode ("Badunkadunk").

Perfect mix

Other than the Chicago rapper's frantic, staccato stylings, the undisguised lyrics of his songs that drip with candor, and the perfect mix of rap and rhythm, the well-chosen elements "borrowed" from popular songs accentuate "Kamikaze's" urban-music appeal—and, the distinctive, ubiquitous female vocal samplings utilized to prop up the lineup.

Remembering Arlene Borja

By Nestor U. Torre

BORJA. Unsikable optimism.

WE remember the first time we met Arlene Borja. We were doing a theater demo at the Thomas Jefferson Library auditorium with Jograd de la Torre and Beverly Salviejo doing some comedy scenes to illustrate our directorial approach in our and Gines Tan's musical, "Magsimula Ka," and this fat woman breathlessly spoke to us after the presentation. Arlene described herself as a singer and comedienne, and said she would do *anything* to join the cast of "Magsimula Ka."

Enthusiasm

We were quite taken with her enthusiasm, so we told her to join the auditions for a new staging of the popular musical at the CCP. We discovered that Arlene was a good comedienne and an acceptable singer, but she couldn't dance to save her life.

Still, we worked hard with her so she would finally pass muster as a dancer, so Arlene finally achieved her dream of performing in "Magsimula Ka."

We thought that was that, but it soon became clear that Arlene intended to be part of our musical-theater world—for keeps! And that's exactly what happened: She got to play attention-calling roles in many of our musicals, and worked with us in the productions we staged not just in Metro Manila, but all over the country as well.

Comedy show

With Andy Bais, Oyee Barro and Christine Carlos, she starred in a comedy show that we performed in clubs. With Lou Veloso and Armand Malig, she cracked audiences up in another popular musical-comedy act.

We arranged for a group audition for a movie producer, and Arlene was one of the new comedians he chose to act in his films. On TV, she became a regular performer on some sitcoms and comedy shows.

Through the years, Arlene proved that she had much more going for her than just her heft and girth. And our relationship deepened, from director-talent, to good friends.

We loved her genuinely upbeat view of life, her unsinkable optimism, and her commitment to the shows we toured all over the country.

Diverse venues

Like us, she delighted in the warm reception our musicals got in very diverse venues, from Malacañang Palace to a small town in Davao del Sur.

And she was thrilled to be a part of that successful effort to make good theater available, not just to "imperial" Manila, but everywhere in the country.

For the past couple of years, however, Arlene had to cope with a number of ailments. And, recently, she passed away, despite her being only in her 40s.

We mourn her passing, and so do the performers who shared the stage so many times with her in our presentations—Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo, Andy Bais, Rito Asilo, Belinda Panelo, Mitch Valdes, Gigi Posadas, Lou Veloso, Ding Mercado, Carmi Martin, Christine Carlos, Tex Ordoñez, Dulce, Jingle Buena, Sheila Asuncion, Paul Marica, Bodjie Pascua, Julien Mendoza, Thea Tadiar, Eva Marie Poon, Bituin Escalante, Ogie Alcasid, Mikee Cojuangco, Ana Feleo, Rachel Alejandro, Giselle Sanchez, Priscilla Almeda—etc.!

Prayer

We ask the pious reader to say a prayer for Arlene's soul. To Arlene's father, siblings and husband Roger Gorgonio and their children, our deepest condolence.

We will remember Arlene for her laughter, songs and love, which we feel privileged to have shared for many years, ever since that fine day in the '80s, when she stepped up to us, so full of life, and declared," I'm Arlene Borja—and I'll do *anything* to be in your show!"

Hopes run high for South Korea at Cannes

By Park Chan-Kyong

SEOUL—Hopes are mounting in South Korea that a buoyant local movie industry will mark its coming of age at this year's Cannes film festival.

South Korea is among four countries with two or more movies in contention for the prestigious grand prize, the Palme D'Or, joining hosts France, the United States and Japan.

Movie mecca

A string of domestic blockbusters have stirred interest in an industry packed with talented directors and actors, for whom Cannes is the ultimate international movie mecca.

It also reflects the burgeoning film industry in Asia as a whole, which has a whopping six of the 18 movies running for the Palme at the festival, whose run started last Wednesday until May 23.

The South Korean movies in contention—"Old Boy," a thriller, and "Woman is the Future of Man," a drama—mark a departure from past Korean movies that have appeared in festivals.

Most of the Korean films that earned international recognition in the past used the country's natural beauty as a backdrop and emphasized specifically Korean, traditional subject matter.

But, the recent crop deal with the universal themes of love, betrayal and revenge, and take a hard look at the more sordid corners of life.

Best director prize

In February this year, South Korean director Kim Ki-Duk received the best director prize at the Berlin film festival with "Samaria," a film that dealt with under-age prostitution.

In 2002, "Oasis," directed by the incumbent Culture Minister Lee Chang-Dong, received the best director award at the Venice film festival.

Korean directors have previously tasted success at the French festival, where Im Kwon-Taek won best director award for "Chihwaseon" in 2002, a year after his film "Chunhyang" was invited to compete for the Palme d'Or.

The selection of two new South Korean films for Cannes confirms a trend and underlines a progression, according to experts.

"This is another event that proves the deepening maturity of Korean movies," said Jie Myung-Hyok of the cinema department of Kookmin University.

South Korea's film industry is riding on a wave of box-office success here.

This year "Silmido," a feature film about a group of South Korean commandos training for a mission to North Korea in the early 1970s, attracted more than 10 million viewers in a country with a 43 million population.

Korean war

Another blockbuster, "Taegeukgi," a movie about two brothers who were sucked into the Korean War of 1950-53, is set to outdo "Silmido" at the box office.

The Cannes contenders are quirkier looks at the fringes of life.

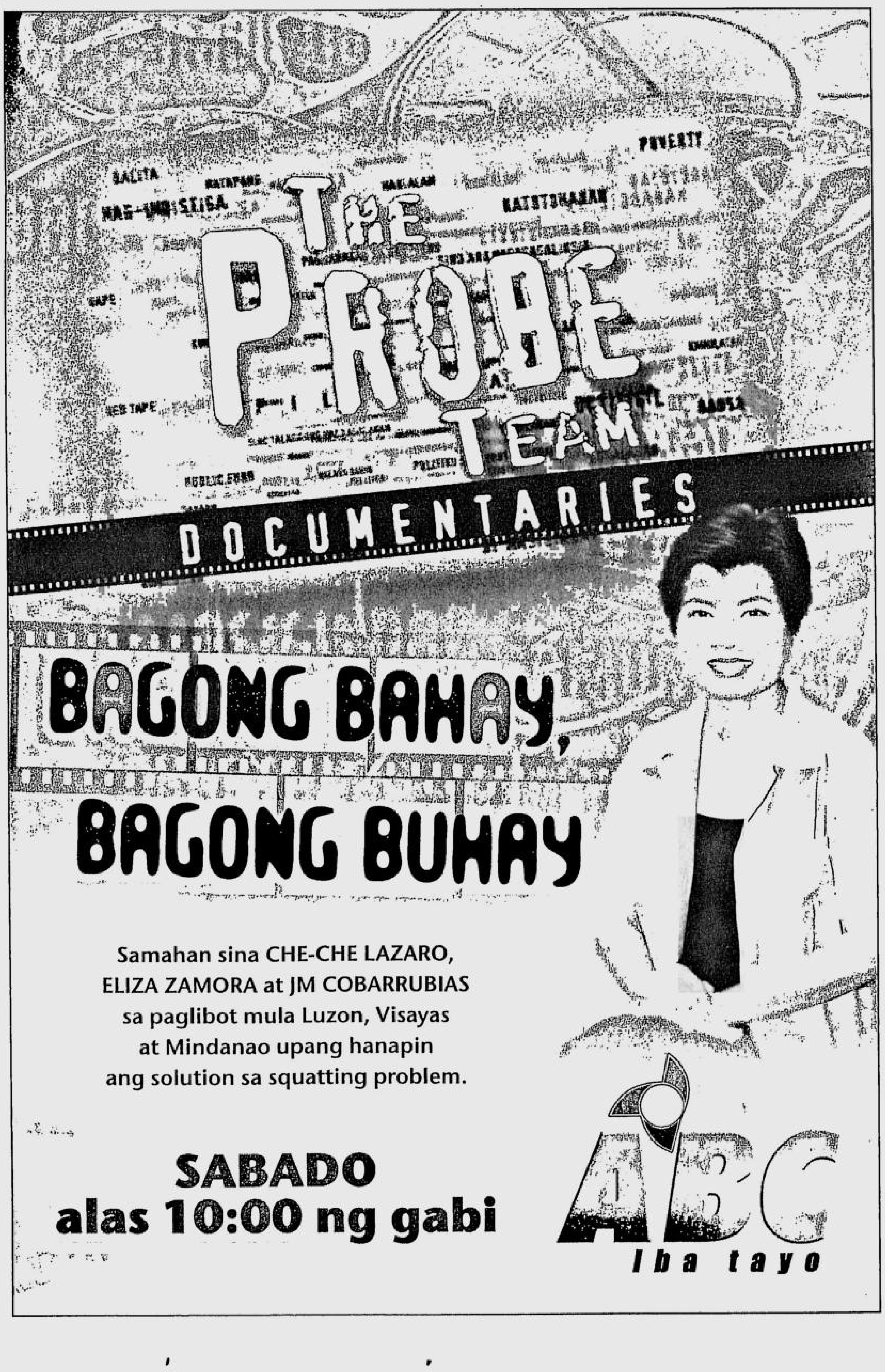
"Old Boy," directed by Park Chan-Wook, is based on a Japanese comic book character who is held for 15 years in a basement by unknown abductors. He emerges looking for answers and revenge.

In "Woman is the Future of Man," two friends seek out the woman they shared a passion for in the past, finding her working as a bar hostess.

The film is directed by Hong Sang-Soo, known among foreign critics for "The Power of Kangwon Province" and "Oh! Soo-jung."

"It's a good thing to be in contention at Cannes, but I don't expect to receive any reward," said Hong Sang-Soo.

"I want viewers to see my movies without any preconceived images of my work." *AFP*



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Olsen twins turn 18 in 'New York Minute'

LOS ANGELES—Sometimes, two of a kind beats a "Full House."

Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen proved that by topping their childhood stint on that saccharine sitcom by starting a billion-dollar enterprise of direct-to-video movies, a little girl fashion line, and assorted books, dolls, trinkets and doodads.

Nearing their 18th birthdays, the two starlets are about to see whether their legions of fans are outgrowing them, or plan to follow them into adulthood.

"New York Minute" is the first feature film from the duo since 1995's "It Takes Two," when they were nine.

Powerhouse

If it's a big hit, "New York Minute" could show Hollywood that the Olsen twins are a ticket-selling powerhouse like fellow teen stars Lindsay Lohan and Hilary Duff—but a catastrophic flop could also relegate them to the uncool, forgotten-in-the-toybox status of Barney (the purple dinosaur) or the Teletubbies.

The girls, who have been famous since they were nine months old, have an almost blasé attitude about their fame, future, fortune and their wholesome image. They say they don't calculate how to appeal to fans.

MARY-KATE AND ASHLEY OLSEN. Worth an estimated $150 M each.

Successful

"We wouldn't be successful if our fans didn't like what we were doing," said Ashley. She and her sister are worth an estimated $150 million each.

Ashley, who's quieter and more classically refined than the Bohemian-lite, jangly jewelry-wearing Mary-Kate, credits their success to making movies that they'd like to watch, since their age was always the target demographic anyway.

They recognize that "New York Minute" is a pivotal project for them—which is why they front-loaded the movie with comedians aimed at the young-adult crowd: Eugene Levy, Andy Richter and Darrell Hammond.

"The movie does get our face out there, and shows us to other people," Mary-Kate said.

For all their success, the Olsen twins still have a stigma to overcome. Although some lecherous male fans have made sport of counting down the days until they turn 18 (on June 13), Mary-Kate and Ashley are still regarded by many as the realm of goofy little kids.

Robert Thorne, the entertainment lawyer who founded the Olsen's Dualstar Entertainment company, and helped create the "Mary-Kate and Ashley" brand of products, dismissed the notion that they have something left to prove.

Publicity push

The publicity push for "New York Minute" has given them a sample of the gossip treatment that they have been relatively immune to for years because of their under-the-radar direct-to-video careers.

In Touch Weekly recently questioned whether the ultrapetite twins had eating disorders, and tabloids routinely feature them with their respective boyfriends (Ashley is dating 20-year-old Columbia University football star Matt Kaplan, while Mary-Kate is romantically linked to 21-year-old David Katzenberg, son of DreamWorks studio co-founder, Jeffrey Katzenberg.)

Will the twins someday attempt to court new guy fans like other young actresses, posing in skimpy outfits in Maxim or similar magazines?

"I doubt it," Thorne said. "I mean, the answer to that is no."

But, both girls bristle when asked about trying to preserve their wholesome image when they both go to New York University next fall.

"Everyone else labeled us as that," Ashley said. "We don't consider ourselves perfect or wholesome—because no one is."

"Or role models," Mary-Kate added, wrinkling her face. "We like to think of ourselves more as . . ."

" . . . Human beings?," Ashley suggests. *AP*

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FORUM

Readers boost their choices for the next American Idol

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

STARMAKING talent show "American Idol" may be winding down, but the tension only increases after each episode. Everyone seems to be on tenterhooks to find out who, finally, will be the next American Idol.

Of course, everybody's rooting for his own bets—so we asked some faithful viewers to tell us who they think the next winner will be. Here's the rest of their answers:

"Fantasia is very flexible. *Kahit anong* genre, *naki*-carry *niya*—even *yung akala mong 'di babagay sa kanya.* Also, *buong-buo ang boses niya.* At the same time, *ang taas ng* range, *pero 'di naman masakit sa tenga. Ang* mouth *niya, magandang* trademark. *Ang* nose *niya, parang kay* Barbra Streisand."—***Angel Cabulay, Iligan City***

Chance

"I don't like Diana—she has a good voice, *pero wala siyang ka*-appeal-appeal.

"But, I think that Jasmine has a chance—if her performance goes back to the same level as it was during the first half of eliminations."—***Tina San Miguel, Antipolo, Rizal***

"Jasmine! Biased *siguro ako kasi* Fil-Am *siya, pero magaling talaga siya. Gusto ko rin si* Fantasia. *Kaya lang, pag* voice quality *na ang pag-uusapan, lamang si* Jasmine. *Nabibigyan niya kasi ng bagong* style *ang mga kanta niya.*

"Yung iba, ini-impose *nila ang mga boses nila sa kanta. Si* Jasmine, *nagbabago depende sa* song.

"Tsaka maganda siya—kasama rin iyon sa impact *ng* performance. *Mapapanganga ka talaga pag kumanta na siya."*—***Mark Raymund Dunham, Lucena City***

"Fantasia. Her performances are always very good. *Kaso lang*, she's not popular. You can see that she's already a performer—she has a lot of gimmicks on stage. She kneels, she walks around the audience area, etc.

Unique

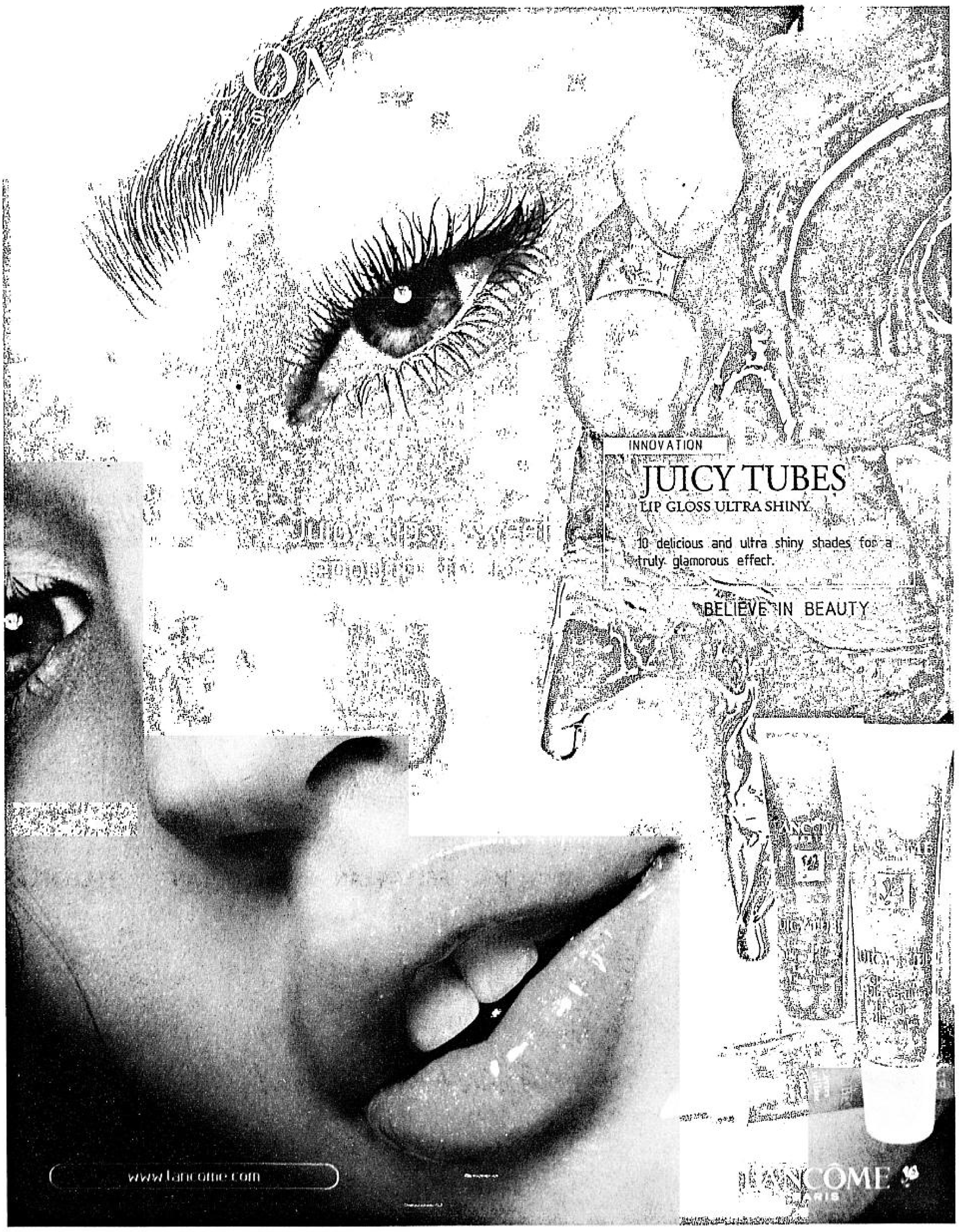
"Her performances are always unique, even her voice—her Gospel roots are evident when she sings because her voice reverberates. She's alive when she performs. *'Di ba, pinagsabihan siya ni* Simon *na:* 'You are the reason why we don't only choose persons who can sing well.'

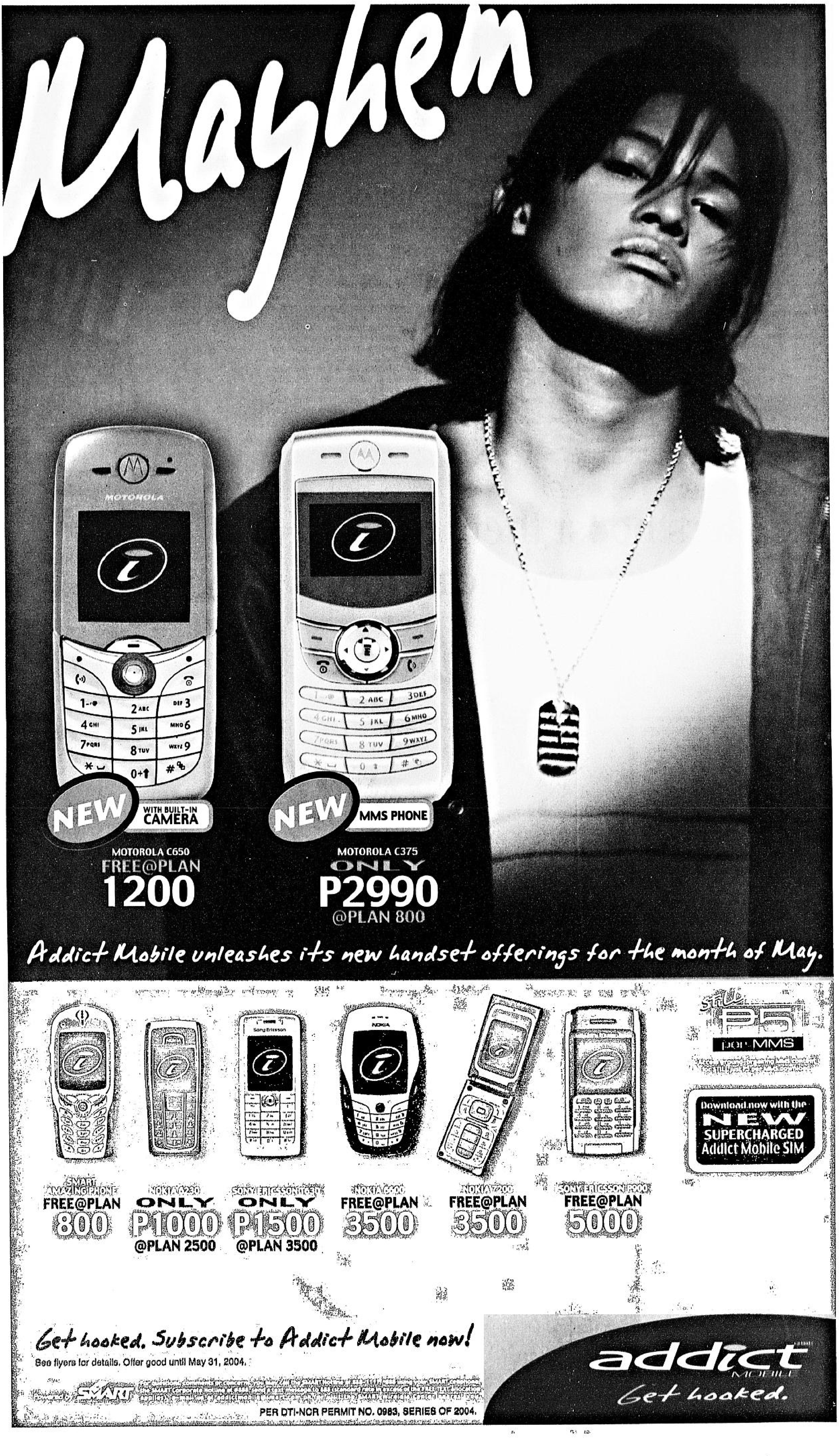
"That's why she always has a big impact on the audience. *Mababahala talaga yung ibang* contestants when she starts performing. A good voice isn't the only thing you need to win, *dapat marunong kang magdala, at dapat may* star quality. *Tsaka,* Fantasia's lips rock!"—***Florabel Almocera, Ortigas***

"Jasmine. *Yung boses niya pangmatanda.* She's only 17, but her voice sounds mature. I like it that she's always smiling.

"But, it's really her voice that's her strongest asset. She has a very high range. *Ang* problem *lang niya, mahilig siya masyado sa birit.* That's why she got tonsillitis and laryngitis in one episode, remember?

"Hindi siya nahihiya, even though she looks sweet and *mahinhin.* And she looks fresh. The others look rugged, *sabog ang dating. Si* Jasmine, *mas maamo*—she's more refined when you compare her to Fantasia."—***Euvi Regis, Bislig City***





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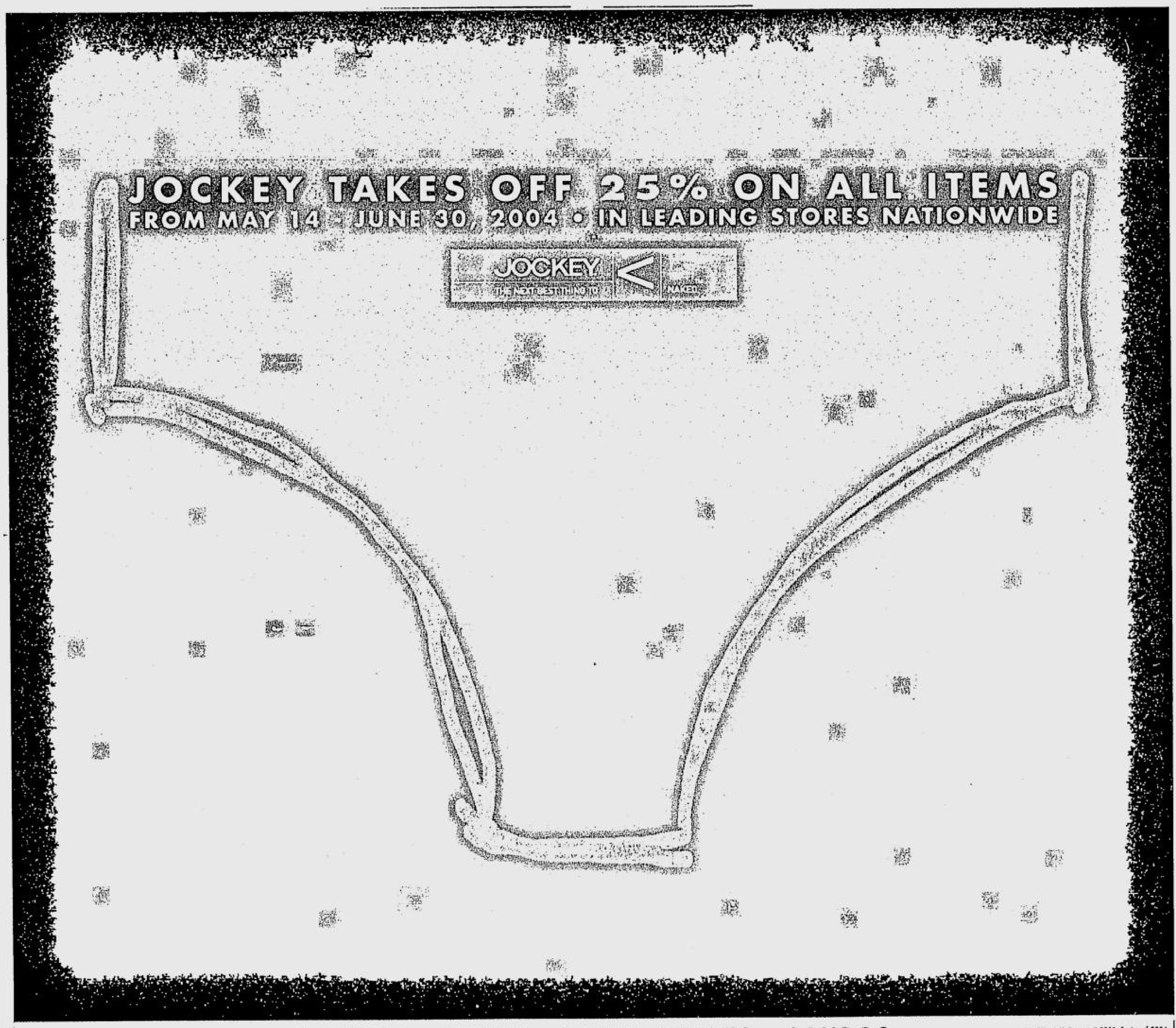
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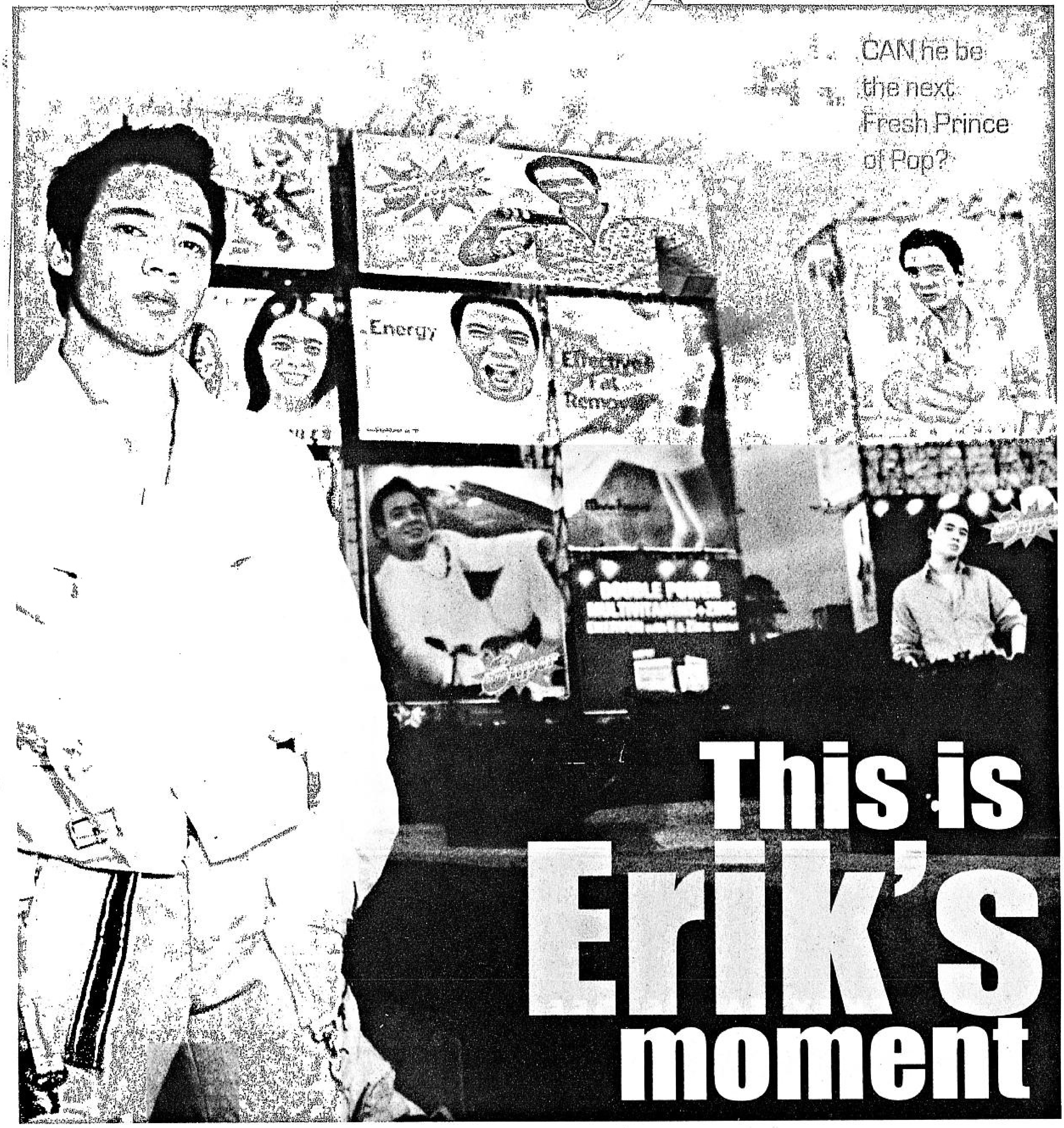


CAN he be the next Fresh Prince of Pop?

This is Erik's moment

Tim Yap

Call it a stroke of luck. The Erik Santos that you see and hear everywhere on the boob tube these days actually lost in "Star in A Million."

If it weren't for his comeback in the wild card category, he would not have made it to the finals. But it seems like someone up there had greater plans for this Nursing student at Emilio Aguinaldo College.

Up to the last minute, he was undecided about his winning song. He woke up one night and heard his sister humming the tune and realized it was meant for him. "This is the Moment" eventually clinched it for this crooner, displacing Cebuana contest favorite Sheryn Regis.

Since we are a country in love with "American Idol," naturally, the local counterpart would elicit as much enthusiasm for its contenders, whose life stories get lapped up by the masses. Thus, "Erik the Ubiquitous" was born.

His first album, aptly titled "This Is the Moment," is flying off the shelves. A friend of mine went to Tower Records looking for it and was dismayed that it got sold out—in its first week. Is this the birth of the next Pinoy Pop Prince?

In the album, he displays an emotionally charged repertoire of Pinoy love songs and contest tunes. He even has a medley of songs sung by both Gary V and Martin Nievera, tough acts that he could very well follow.

The Pinoy music scene is in dire need of new idols with true talent.

Erik may just be the one.

The thing about fame is It is something that everybody wants to achieve. But before you get it, it takes you a lot of hardship, determination and patience.

The thing I love most about what I do is I get to inspire a lot of people through music.

People might be surprised to know that I am That am so "KALOG."

The most important thing I have ever learned is That 'Patience' is one of the best things an individual should possess.

I wish when I started off I'd been told that I'm already in a different world, that I ought to be more kind and wise to everyone... if not, all the time.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was When I lost in the 3rd week of the monthly finals of "Star in A Million."

And what this taught me was That I should never give up no matter what happens.

The happiest moments of my life was When I was declared as the grand prize winner of "Star in A Million."

The secret to happiness is As long as you love what you are doing.

My best ever outfit consisted of The one I wore in the grand finals.

My super Saturday night consists of I usually do out of town shows and "Star in A Million" during Saturdays.

The soundtrack to my life would include This is the moment, I believe I can fly, If I believe and my first single in the album "Pagbigyang Muli."

If I were invisible for a day I would Kiss and embrace my greatest/ultimate crush

The thing that makes me most angry is *Pag may nakikialam ng personal kong gamit.*

If I was the most powerful person on earth I would Give everybody big money to start a new life. "Sounds impossible, but I'd do it (if and when) given the chance to be the most powerful person on earth.

The best thing about family is Family—these are the only group of people who you could give your trust and lean on in times of your defeat as well as in victory. My family completes my being.

When I'm gone they'll probably say That I am a kind of person who really loves music and a friend to everyone.

If money were no object I would If there is peace and harmony in the government... *kung walang* corrupt...

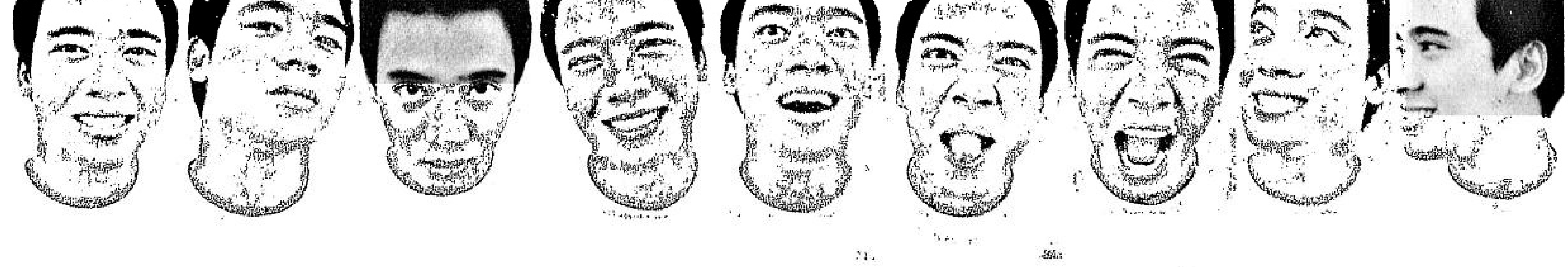
When I retire I would like to: I'd like to live in a place where there is peace and where I could spend the rest of my life with my loved ones.

The world would be a much better place if *Kung lahat nagkakasundo/ nagbibigayan.*

My hero is Spiderman

The thing that makes my life worth living is My family

My greatest hope for the future is To be an inspiration to all even when I get older.



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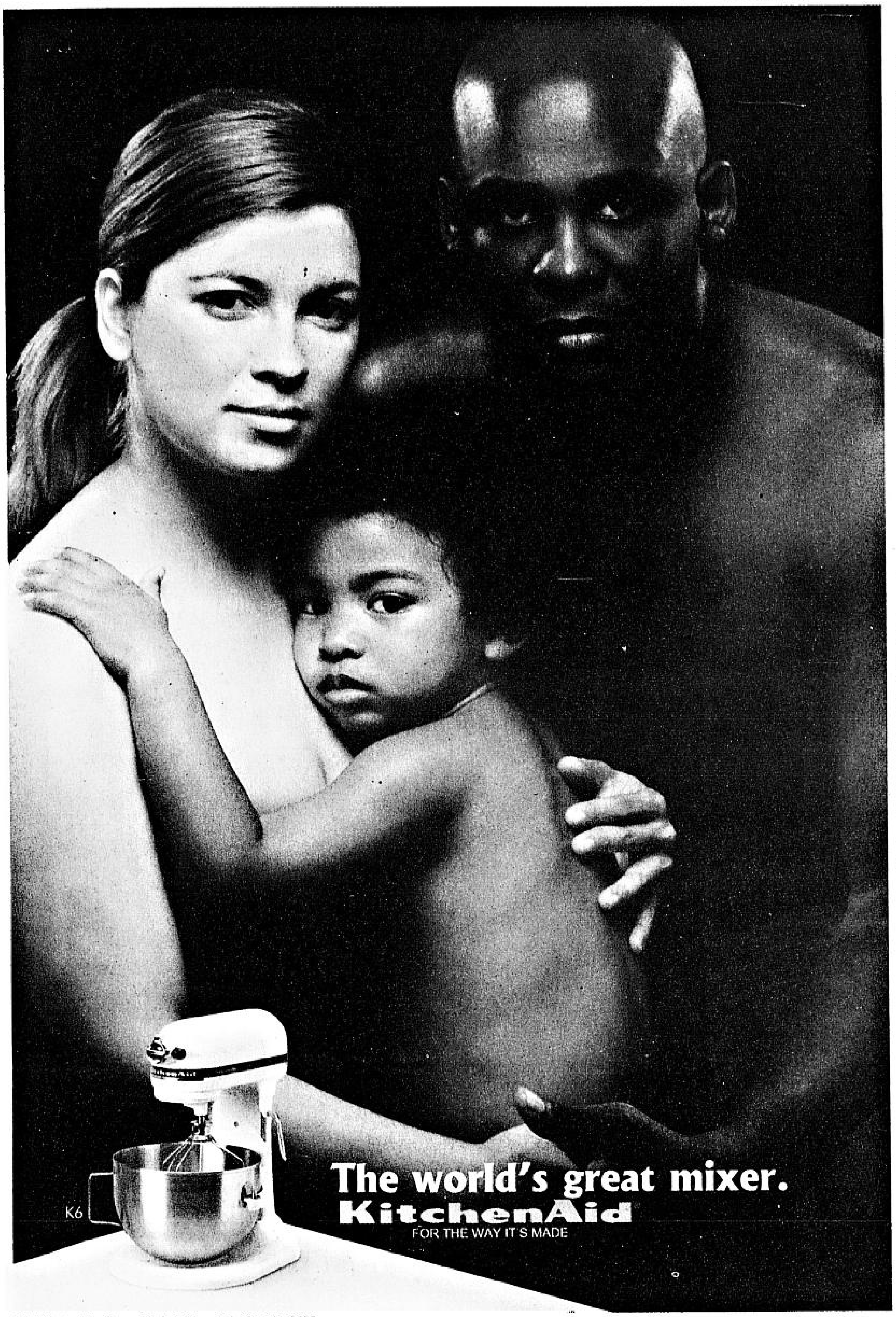

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F ON 23!
Viewers can now catch "F" on Studio 23, Sundays at 9:30 p.m. The show will continue to dish out features on fashion, trends, beauty tips, cool places, makeovers and hip personalities. The show is hosted by the fab trio of Angel Aquino, Amanda Griffin and Daphne Osena.

The edible house

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

I DON'T mean the gingerbread house that Hansel and Gretel visited although it could be every bit as tempting and appetizing. Actually, it's more correct to say "edible houses," since most homes in Lucban, Quezon, if not all of them, could be digested on the day that the Pahiyas Festival takes place. I once had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate this colorful and delicious experience. Recollections of the quaint, multi-hued and gaudily-decorated-with-food residences and the joyful festivities are invariably etched in my memory. It was fun *and* filling.

Every year on this day, the people of Lucban showcase the results of months of hard labor by adorning their houses with food—from fruits to candies ... anything that can be eaten. The fiesta is such a happy affair that it naturally draws people from Manila and nearby provinces, and even foreigners.

No doubt those who have chosen to join in the Pahiyas celebration today will be munching nonstop. I'm so envious. Take that, Hansel, Gretel and Wicked Witch! Pinoys live your fairy tale every year.

Saturday, May 15

If you read this early enough, Lucban is only three to four hours south of Manila. You won't get disappointed, I assure you.

Sunday, May 16

"Let's Play," works in charcoal by artist Pedro Garcia II are on display only until today at the SM Megamall Art Center 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. So hurry. For details, contact 687-7425.

Monday, May 17

Feast your eyes and palates on Philip Brita Badon's "Food for the Soul, Drink for the Spirit, Dessert for the Body," sponsored by Cascada Restaurant. The exhibit will feature artwork in watercolor, acrylic on felt and acrylic on board. Cascada Restaurant is located at the 2nd level of Greenbelt 2 Ayala Center, Makati City.

Tuesday, May 18

To celebrate "The Italian Film Festival 2004," the Embassy of Italy. in Manila, the Philippine-Italian Association and the Cultural Center of the Philippines will hold a series of film showings. Showing today is "Ciao Professore." Screenings are at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., venues are the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino and at the CCP Dream Theater. Admission is free! For more information, call 832-1125 loc. 1704-1705.

Wednesday, May 19

Young and extremely talented artists Carlo Saavedra and Jeho Bitangcor will hold solo exhibits at the Boston Gallery, 72 Boston Street, Cubao, Quezon City. For details, call 722-9205.

Thursday, May 20

Charlie Co's "Clowns and Puppets" on display at the Galleria Duemila, 4/L The Artwalk Megamall A. Presented for viewing are large and medium-sized oil on canvas paintings of cultural and social commentaries. Dial 634-3261 for details.

Friday, May 21

In the tradition of good vibes that BBC is known for, Furious Fridays was recently launched and will happen every Friday this whole month of May at the newly-opened DISH, ABS-CBN, Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City. Breaks by Scrambled Edge and Tech House by DJ H-Bomb. Guaranteed fun nights. Look for flyers everywhere.

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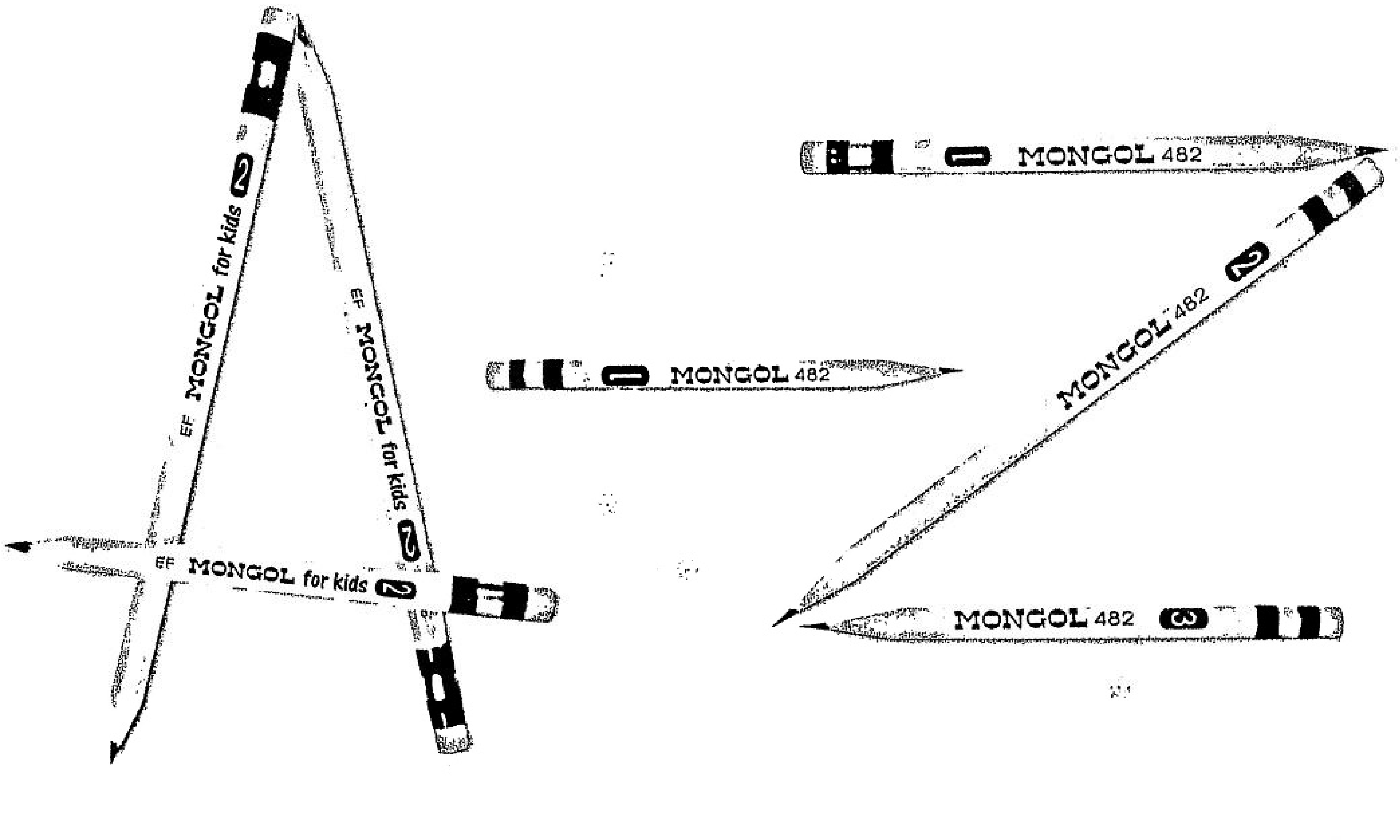

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Star chameleon

By Tals Diaz
Photos by Roger Margallo

SHE dons dreadlocks and sings a la Alicia Keys on key. She slips on svelte, sexy dresses, piles on the pearls and serves up ear-chocolatey, ultra-smooth jazz. She frolics around the stage like a gypsy fresh off the caravan, her head wrapped in a colorful scarf, giant silver hoops hanging from her ears. Then surprises with a spiced up, beat-box performance of "Bohemian Rhapsody."

She renders classic Brazilian bossa nova numbers in perfect Portuguese. In fact she speaks five languages—English, Filipino, French, Portuguese and Spanish—fluently. She wears feather boas and does backflips while passing out beer to guests in a Montreal bar. And most important of all—she makes this ultra cool champagne bottle-popping sound with her mouth.

Meet April's "Star in a Million" winner, the colorful chameleon Nykó Macá.

One tough cookie

Besting hundreds of hopefuls who auditioned for ABS-CBN's monthly talent search, this 23-year old is one tough cookie from a different oven. Full of spunk, fueled with high energy and equipped with an infectious sense of humor, she candidly admits that in spite of her versatility, she remains a staunch advocate of authentic character.

"I value genuineness. That's the common thread that I always maintain with every performance. Even if I project different images, I try to be honest with every song I offer. That's my strength, my ability to play different characters while still being myself, even while I bring something new to a song. The externals are just an aid, not a distraction."

In last month's "Star in a Million" competition, Nykó Macá reinvented herself with every performance, effortlessly pulling off a variety of musical genres. She chose to do her own thing by opting not to perform the tried and tested, "safe" songs generally perceived to be crowd pleasers. Instead, she chose gritty numbers, from Alicia Keys' "A Woman's Worth" and Peggy Lee's "Fever," to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," all spiced up with her own brand of funk.

"I conceived of it more as creating a character every time that could bring a new aspect to an old song that people have heard before. I chose songs that people could identify with, powerful songs with strong messages, to which I added something never done before."

True talent

Underneath the kaleidoscopic images on stage, the winning formula that bagged the April star for her proved to be authentic talent—you could say she put the "talent" back

STAR/ H2

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Star chameleon

From page H1

into "talent search." Hers stems from a deep passion for music, and formal training at an early age. Schooled in pop, a capella and the classics, she's veritably a one-woman band. She can play the piano, tambourine, *kajon*, and the traditional Brazilian instruments, the *atabaque* and *berimbau*. Such heartfelt love for an eclectic range of music allows her to shift effortlessly from genre to genre. Thus, she sings Broadway because she loves musical theater, gives justice to jazz in honor of Thelonious Monk, puts the pop in pop music because it was the music she grew up with, belts out bossa nova with an edge on account of years training in the Brazilian martial art of *capoeira*, and professes that hip hop and soul are really close to her heart.

Under the scrutiny of three judges well-known in the industry, namely Gerard Salonga, Jamie Rivera and Fritz Infante, whose job was to dish out honest critiques on the contestants, "American Idol" style, the only unfavorable critique Nykó Macá got was that she needed to wear higher heels. Gerard Salonga noted that she put class into every song she performed. And pleasing the most critical judges yet—the TV viewers armed with cell phones, she prevailed with a tidal wave of text votes.

Yet, in spite of the cross-cultural mix of genres, she remains distinctly Filipino. "I feel so Filipino that I don't have to work at being Filipino! I believe it's part of what I do and how I come across to the audience. Because they take one look at me and they know that I'm an Asian girl!"

Before coming back to the Philippines, she was offered a recording contract in Montreal, Canada, where she went to college. She had to turn it down in lieu of coming back home in

A Beach To Deal With

By Martin Valdes

SUMMER is a vector force that accelerates in a straight line. Last April 15-17, the season's momentum hit high gear with the post-Holy Week party, San Mig Light's Boracay Bound 3 held in Boracay Island. Celebrities, models, actors and media denizens doffed their city attire and donned their beach suits in general surrender to the inertia of summer.

Most people choose to spend their time in Boracay lounging under a merciless sun, sipping coconut water and reading Kahlil Gibran. Not these sons (and daughters) of a beach. Activity was the operative word the whole weekend—daylight hours filled with excursions and games held in Club Paraw, evenings with veritable aural orgies.

It was surreal, to say the least, to witness the likes of Borgy Manotoc and Rovilson Fernandez blindfolded and digging frantically in the sand, like a couple of moles on ephedrine. Or Jackie Forster and Geff Rodriguez doing their best to keep those hula hoops on their hips. Or Ipe Cruz wrestling with a San Mig Light beer can. Volleyball, water balloon ball (a modified form of the former), relay races and a truly inspiring aquatic chicken fight kept the crowds gawking. Seen laughing on the sidelines were JM Rodriguez, Dale Villar, Sarah Christophers, VJ Karel, GP Reyes, April Galang, JR Isaac, Audrey Carpio and Tim Yap. To chill after all the physical (and mental) exertions, most availed of the sumptuous treatments offered at the SKIN_Private Joyce-Havaianas Foot Pampering Station, where tired toes and weary soles were attended to, and satisfaction was measured in feet.

Hectic!

The nights were a hectic exclamation point to the days' off-beat prose. Cocomangas Beachfront went into convulsions as the beach's nervous system was assaulted by the audio arsenal of DJ Jon Herrera, DJ Rej and Mars, to kick off V-Bar's "Ebony Grooves." ARIA in Station 2 was spun dry by the likes of Martin Pulgar, Manolet Dario and Raji Mata, defying the dawn light with some dusky House. But even the music was drowned out when Nothing But Water flooded the runway with its latest line of swim wear and beach fashion modeled by women who define male heterosexuality. The show also featured Havaianas, SKIN_Private Joyce and Oxydo Eyewear products. Hemp Republic, the reggae renegades, smoked the crowds with a bad-ass party in front of Bom-Bom & Pat's Bar beachfront.

Beautiful people, great entertainment and a fantastic location—San Mig Light's Boracay Bound 3 had all these in abundance. Can't wait for next year; it's Bound to be just as good.

ESTROGEN X

***KAYA** mo 'yan Ipe!*

THEY look oddly familiar

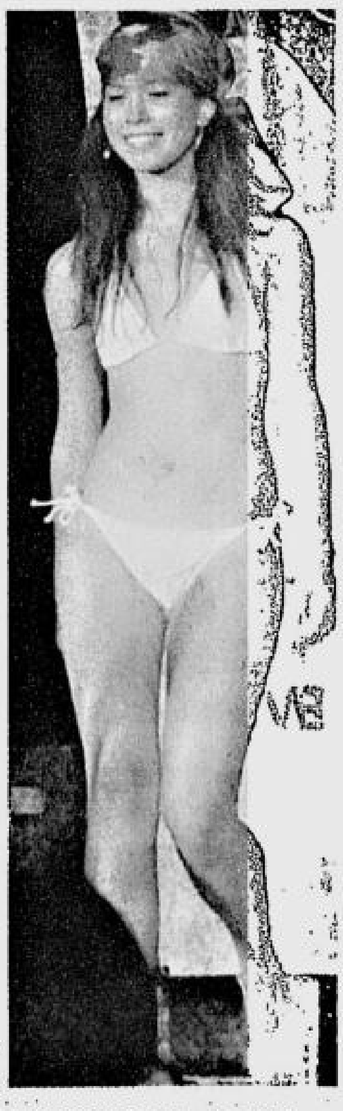
HELLO? Party line!

SAMP
URA BORA
NEW KIDS on the sunblock

TIM players

FORSTER'S Chumps

MATT Hadfield scouts the field


NOTHING but Jessica Kinley

BON

HOS

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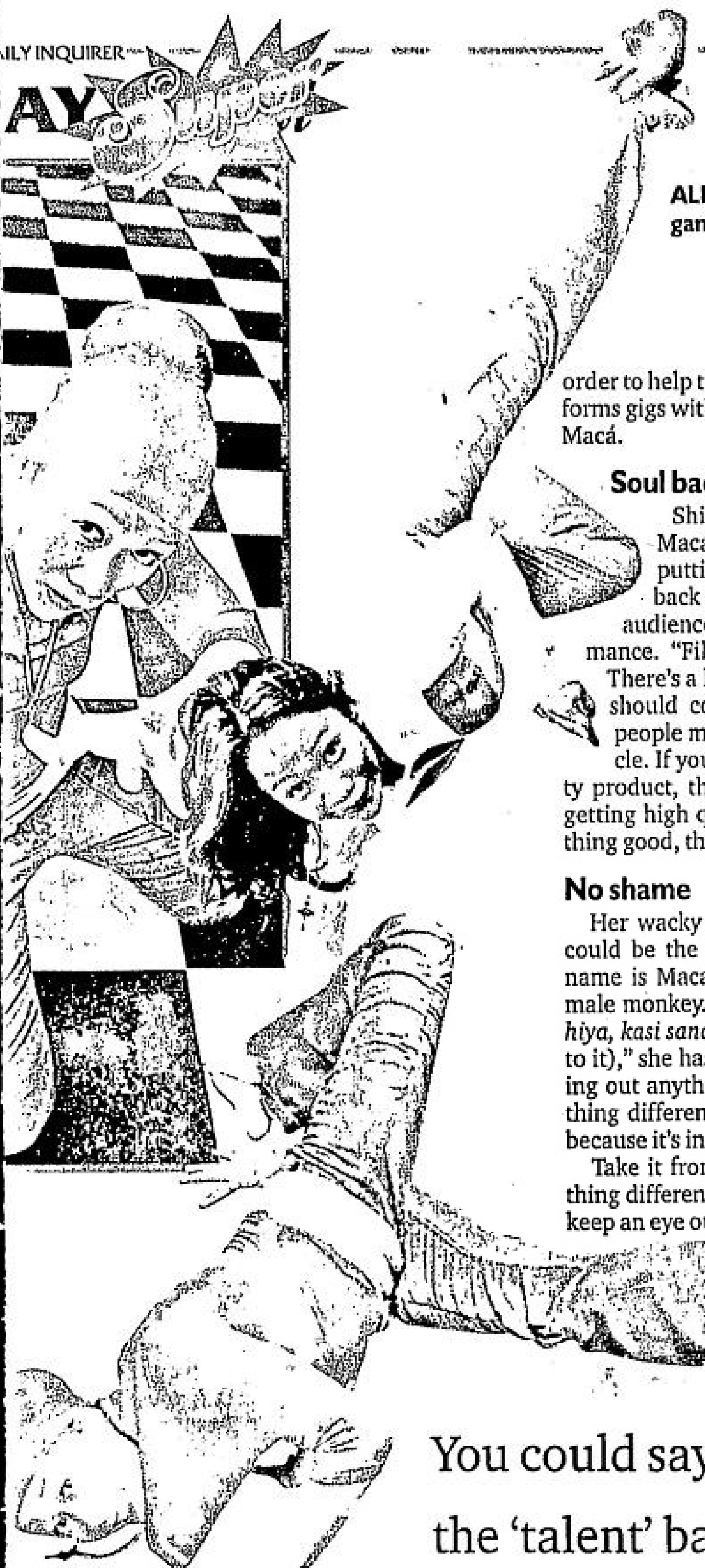


ALL FUNKED UP. This girl's got game

order to help teach *capoeira*, and now she performs gigs with her self-titled jazz band, Nykó Macá.

Soul back in the show

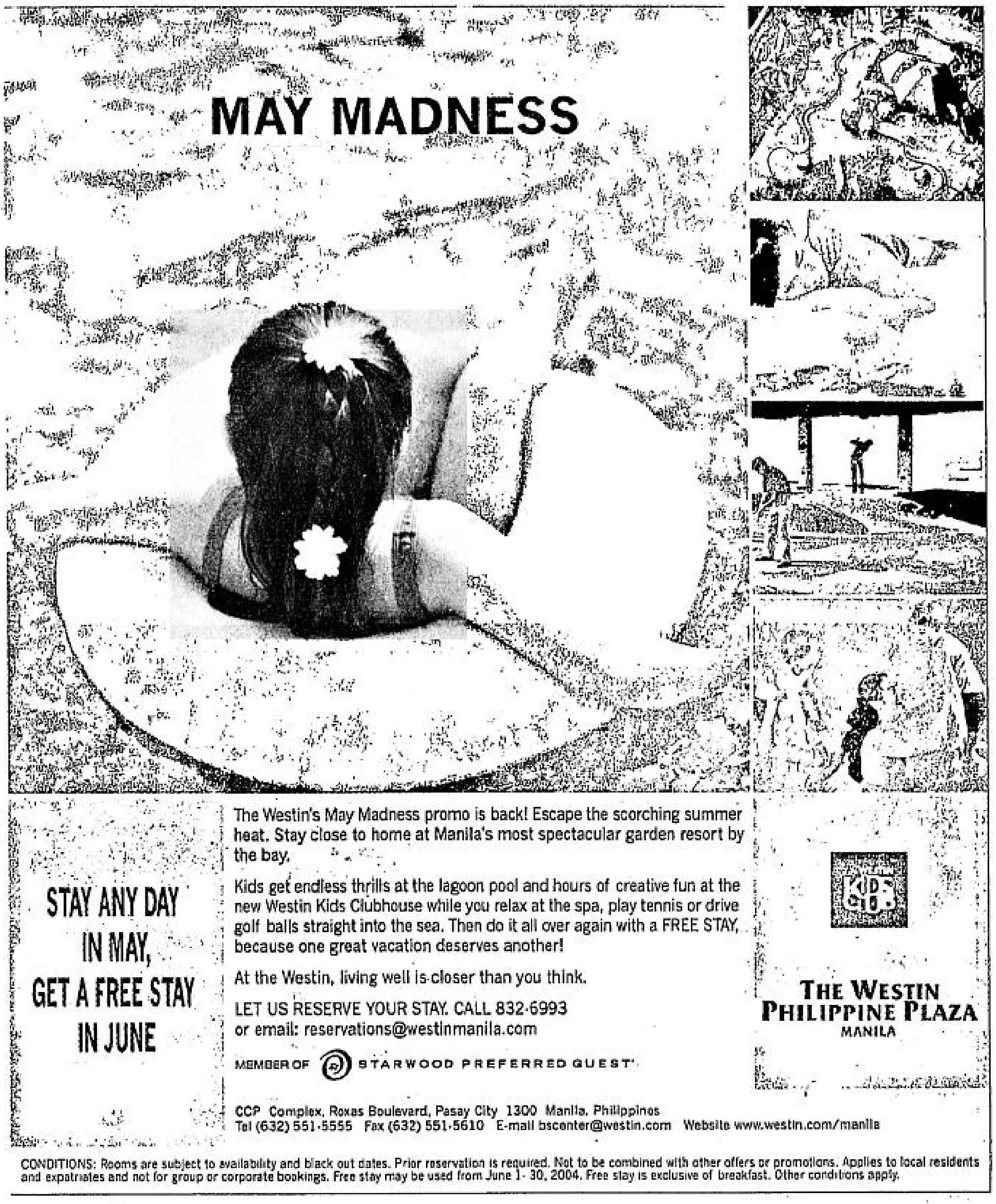
Shifting to a serious note, Nykó Macá stresses the importance of putting the "entertainment" aspect back in the show. She believes local audiences deserve premium performance. "Filipinos like to be entertained. There's a lot of local talent, but I think we should continue to raise the bar, offer people more. I think it's like a vicious cycle. If you don't give people a high quality product, they're not going to get used to getting high quality. But when you do something good, they respond!"

No shame

Her wacky antics and monkeying around could be the reason that her *capoeira* nickname is Macaca, which is translated as "female monkey." Describing herself as "*walang hiya, kasi sanay na ako* (shameless—I'm used to it)," she has no qualms about brazenly trying out anything. "I always like trying something different—not just to be different, but because it's interesting to me. So why not?"

Take it from this chameleon—taste something different, keep your ears perked up and keep an eye out for this star.

> You could say she put the 'talent' back into 'talent search'



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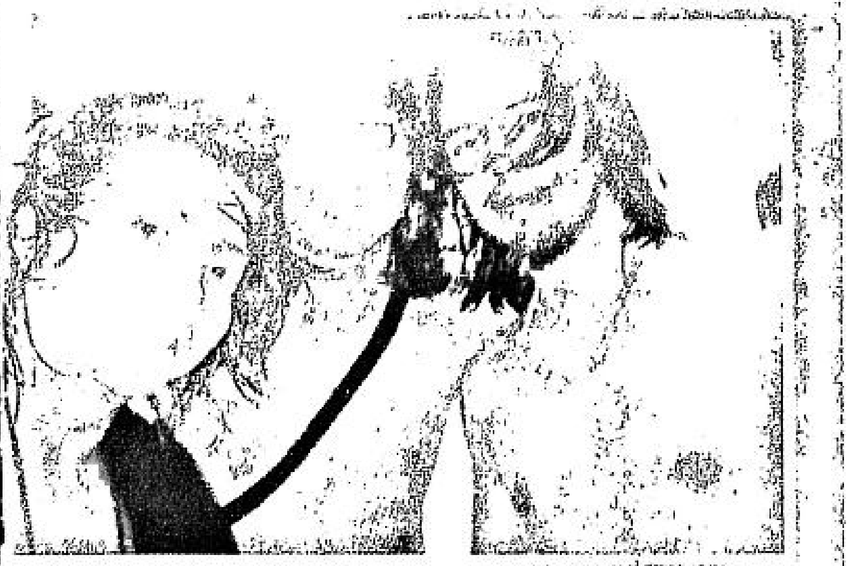
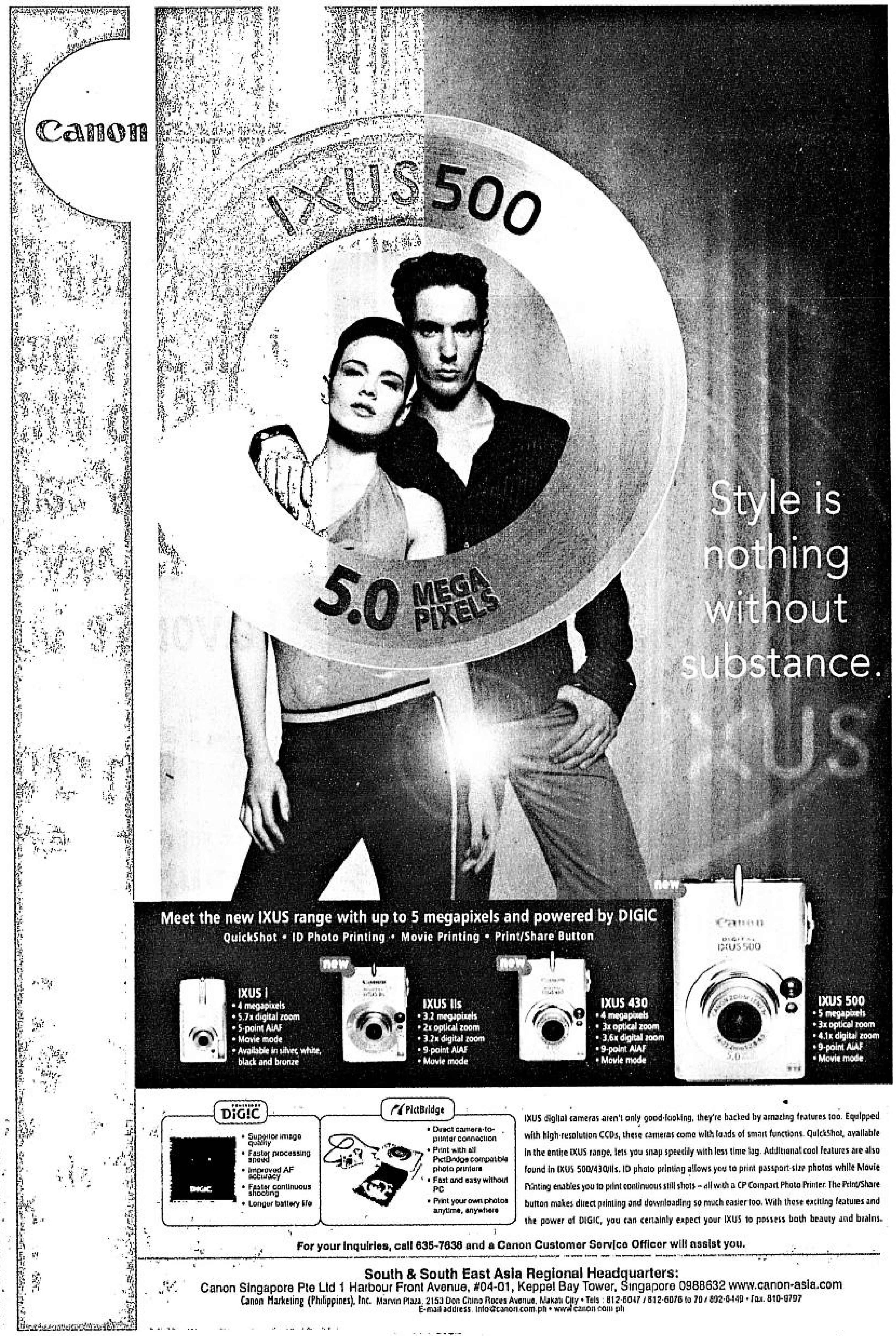


ID. James Re-Bond

T of the coast

MICH Katigbak and friends



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The Ego has landed

Let us hope the winners in the last elections would show the same passion and dignity in their calling as Manny Pacquiao, a true champ, does

OUT THE WINDOW

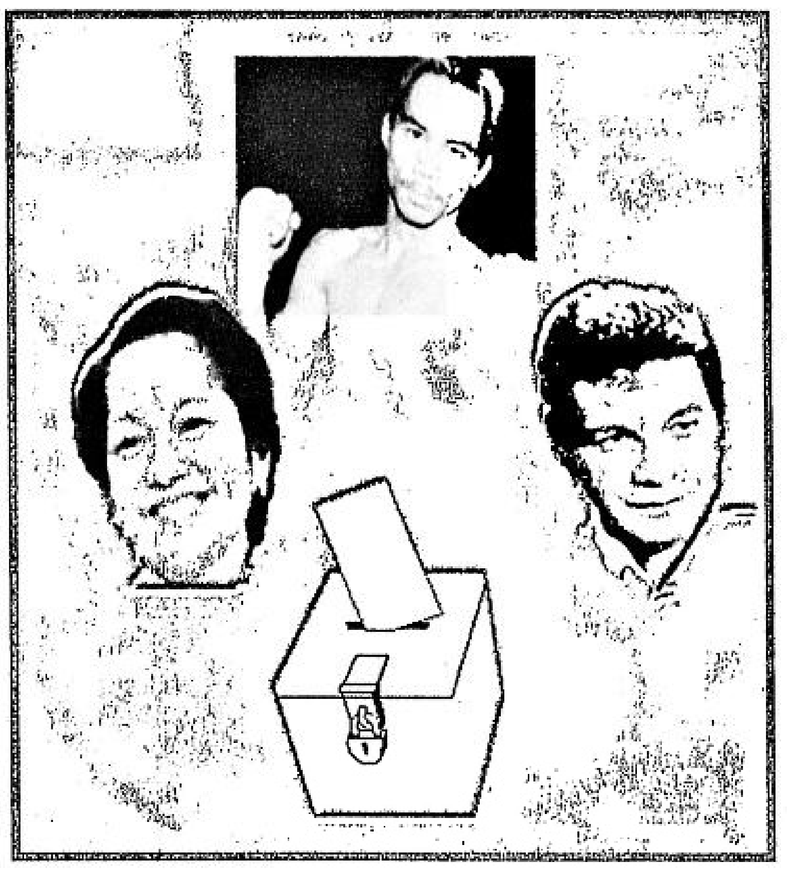
Tals Diaz

FOR THE record, I admit I'm no expert on the sport of boxing. I guess a big part of it has to do with having drawn an XY in the chromosome lottery, so anything that has to do with blood, fists and guts, I usually leave to my male buddies to dissect while I quietly indulge in my peanut butter-flavored Go Nuts donuts. But as I am a huge fan of the sun and stars in the Philippine flag, I found myself glued to the TV on the day the feisty fighter Manny Pacquiao slugged it out in a Las Vegas ring. Of course, I was extremely disheartened that it ended in a draw when he seemed so close to yet another victory.

I was even more heartbroken—hell, I got all choked up in fact—when I watched the post-game interview with the battered and bruised Pacquiao. Getting teary eyed, with one eye half-shut a la James Caveziel in "The Passion," Pacquiao admitted he was extremely disappointed because he felt that he let the Filipino people down (though we all know that that wasn't the case in our own score sheets—Muhammad Ali even hailed him as a real champ—now how cool is that?)

To downplay his own ego and to think about the people he was fighting for as he wore the colors of our flag in the global arena—now there's a true winner if I ever saw one.

From the boxing ring to the ballot box, this has been a week of battles, indeed. In the national playing field, we witnessed a different, albeit mottled, breed of fighters. We kept track of bloated egos, tried to dodge all the mudslinging, and became desensitized with the personal jabs of cheating from all sides of the political ring. These hotshots slugging away for the top positions in the land only served to knock down the very people they all claimed to be fighting for.



BALLOT boxing. Manny Pacquiao for president! DIGITAL ARTWORK BY CARLO AGUINALDO

Wipe-outs

In every game, fight or battle, we can all relate to the German proverb that goes, "Who has never tasted what is bitter does not know what is sweet." As players who've endured many battles in life, be they internal conflicts, athletic competitions, heck, even the bloodsports of personal relationships, we've all experienced the euphoria of victory and, conversely, the torment of having our pride pummeled in defeat. It's akin to the humbling feeling of getting wiped out by a wave in surfing—tumbling away helplessly and drowning at the thought of utter humiliation. To this day, I still relive certain horrible moments in my life when I wanted the earth to split open and gulp me down whole. Not getting certain jobs I wanted, losing in the finals of a football game back in college over a stupid penalty showdown, getting fired from a waitressing job that I needed to pay the rent while studying abroad, being the "broken" half of a breakup—though we savor certain triumphs in our lives, sometimes, it's the defeats that linger longer in the memory vault. For we're all born with this thing that Freud coined as the ego, and feeding it is consciously or subconsciously part of our daily diet. In fact, Friedrich Nietszche once said, "Whenever I climb I am followed by a dog called Ego."

Ego

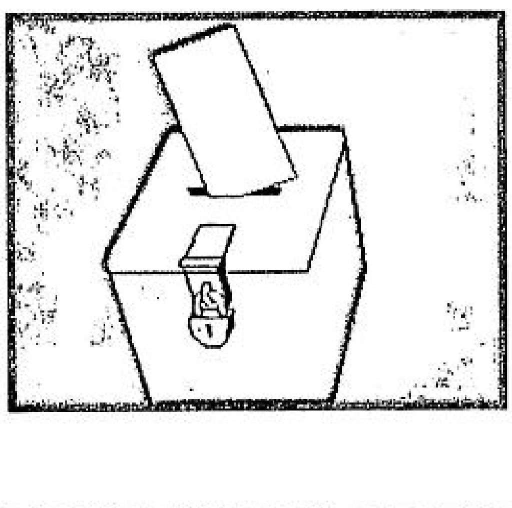
In Zen Buddhism, the ego is a concept that the faith's disciples are allergic to. For Buddhists, the "ego" is a spiritual term that negates unity with the universe, and thus, it is something that we have to kill. An ego-dominated mindset, or the delusive belief that one is better than everyone else, causes disharmony in the cosmos. In the universe of George Lucas, it causes an imbalance in The Force.

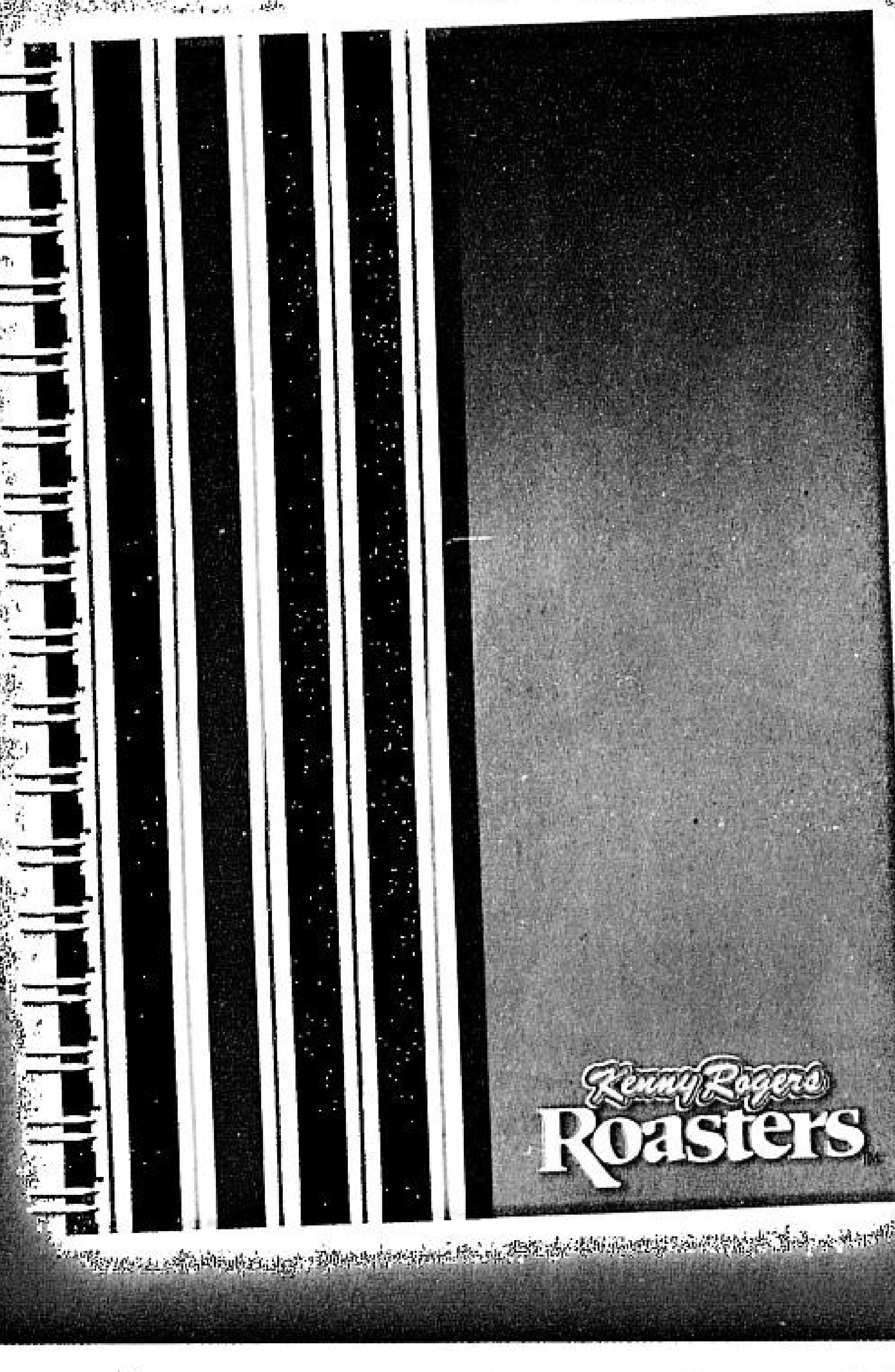
Now, this has been a personal Zen *koan* for me, so to speak, pondering the irony of how to kill the ego while believing we're also supposed to kill mediocrity in all our endeavors. For what use is it to fight for something without aiming to be the best? How do we remain humble while struggling to better ourselves? So I sat—not exactly under an *asoka* tree, but rather at the corner table of my favorite café, indulging in such coffeelosophy, and I *did* realize something. That competition, in whatever battles we pick in life, big or small, is not merely an exercise in stroking our egos. No, these are training grounds where we learn to fight—for our dignity. And the struggle for dignity is never in the name of conceit, for true victory lies in being able to grasp, little by little, the abstract notions of honor and principle. In every game, the question we really ask is not who the winner or loser is, but how we played the game, and more importantly, what are we fighting for? As Gandhi even once posited, "Where there is injustice, I believe in fighting. The question is, do you fight to change things or do you fight to punish?"

Winners, losers

As we hold our collective breaths and wait for this week (actually, more like weeks and more weeks) to pass for the results of the big game that will affect all our lives for the next six years, I only hope that the proclaimed winner will show the same passion and dignity as Manny Pacquiao, by upholding the honor of the Filipino people as the true inspiration in his battle.

(I click, therefore I am at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)





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THE COAST WITH THE MOST. Move over 90210, Newport Beach has got the flow

A whip-smart depiction of what it's like to be young, rich, and slightly messed up in the '00s

Welcome to 'The OC'!

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

MISCHA Barton is everywhere these days. Not that I'm complaining. The London-born teen—a three-way cross between Jodie Kidd, Kate Moss, and Katie Holmes—is beautiful, lanky, and extremely lucky. For one thing, she doesn't have the substantially crossed teeth her countrymen are known for. More significantly, she stars in Fox's nascent youth drama "The OC," which looks to reinvigorate today's dormant teen television landscape in a huge-ass way.

Taking its name from the hip-hop slang for Orange County, California, "The OC" is part of the current resurgence in all things Cali in our fickle pop culture universe. The hit show joins beach rock, C&C California t-shirts, and cult brand Von Dutch as exponents of the Golden State's brand of sun-kissed cool. Carrying the American flag as far as international must-see TV is concerned, "The OC" has even become mandatory hipster viewing in Britain, where the default crappy weather makes Southern California's bikini-clad sunshine—the seasonal equivalent of The Beach Boys—seem so desirable. But why does "The OC" stand out?

Unlike standard-issue reality programming that's choreographed to dumb you down, "The OC" is a you-my-dog salute to the teenage years and a whip-smart depiction of what it's like to be young, rich, and slightly messed up in the '00s. Now that the Joey-loves-Dawson cash register has *ka-chung*, the position for Post-Creek TV Moment is wide open. The WB tried to bodyslam for the privilege

WELCOME/14

California knows how to party

They're sufficiently youthful to play 16-year-olds on TV. Meet the fresh-faced cast of "The OC".

Mischa Barton

As: Marissa Cooper
Born: January 24, 1986
In: London, England but currently lives in NYC
Also seen in: Enrique Iglesias' video "Addicted." Before that, you may have spotted her as the young ghost who threw up in 1999's "The Sixth Sense"
Vague 90210 throwback: Princess-next-door Donna Martin
The catch: This beauty has brains

Benjamin McKenzie

As: Ryan Atwood
Born: September 12, 1978
In: Austin, Texas
Also seen in: CBS' "The District" in which played a teen molested by a priest
Vague 90210 throwback: Brooding Dylan McKay
The catch: He's from the wrong zip code

Chris Carmack

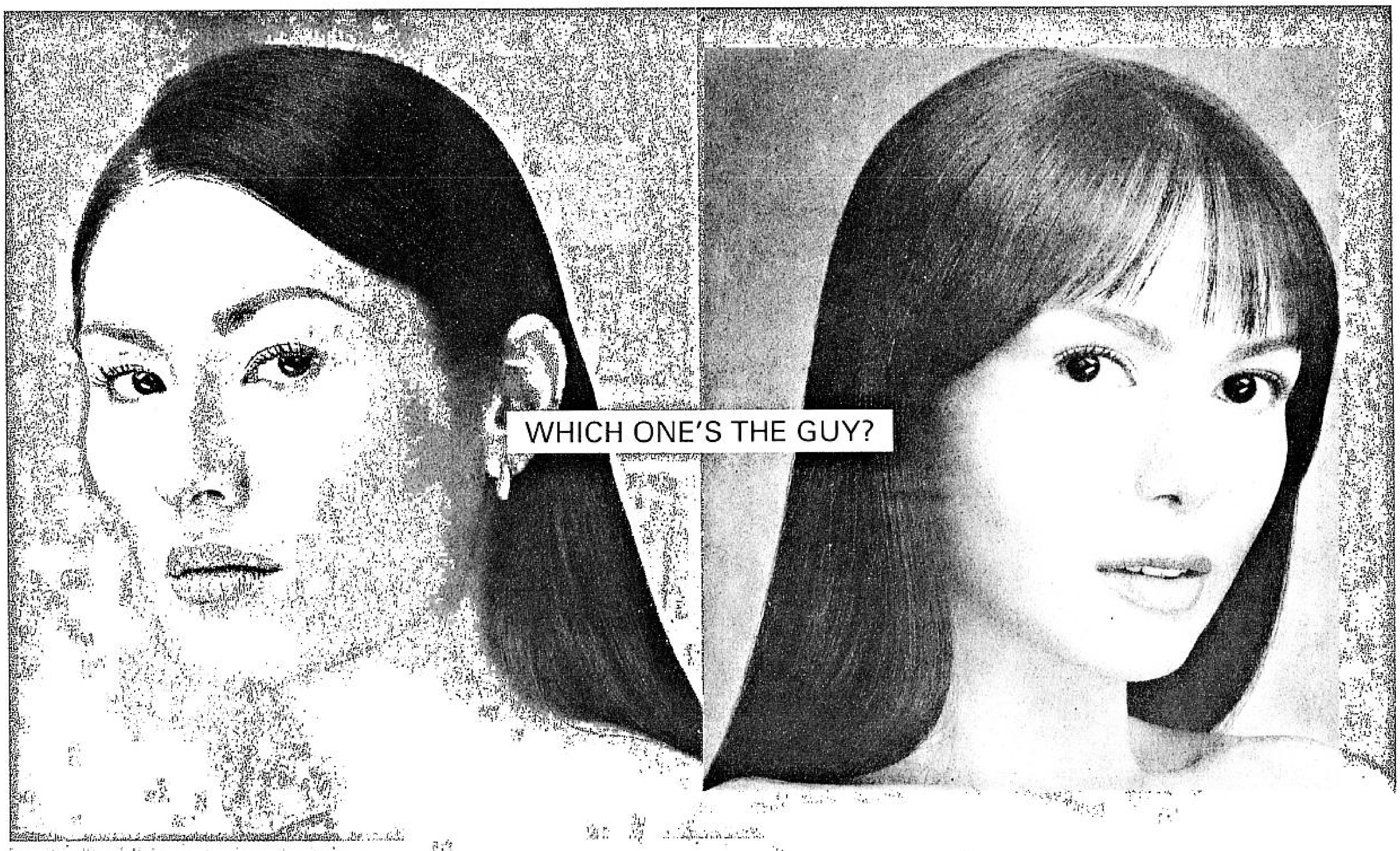
As: Luke Ward
Born: December 22, 1980
In: Washington, DC
Also seen in: 2000's Guess? campaign as well as ads for Abercrombie & Fitch
Vague 90210 throwback: Musclehead Steve Sanders
The catch: He's a bully with a conscience

Adam Brody

As: Seth Cohen
Born: April 8, 1981
In: San Diego, California
Also seen in: 2003's skate-or-die movie "Grind" and a 2001 "Smallville" episode as Justin Gaines
Vague 90210 throwback: Geek David Silver
The catch: He gets the chicks

Rachel Bilson

As: Summer Roberts
Born: November 13, 1981
In: Los Angeles, California
Also seen in: a Neutrogena commercial, as well as the "Dirty Girls" episode of Buffy the Vampire Slayer in 2003 and the "5:15" episode of "That '70s Show" in 2004
Vague 90210 throwback: Party girl Kelly Taylor
The catch: She parties harder



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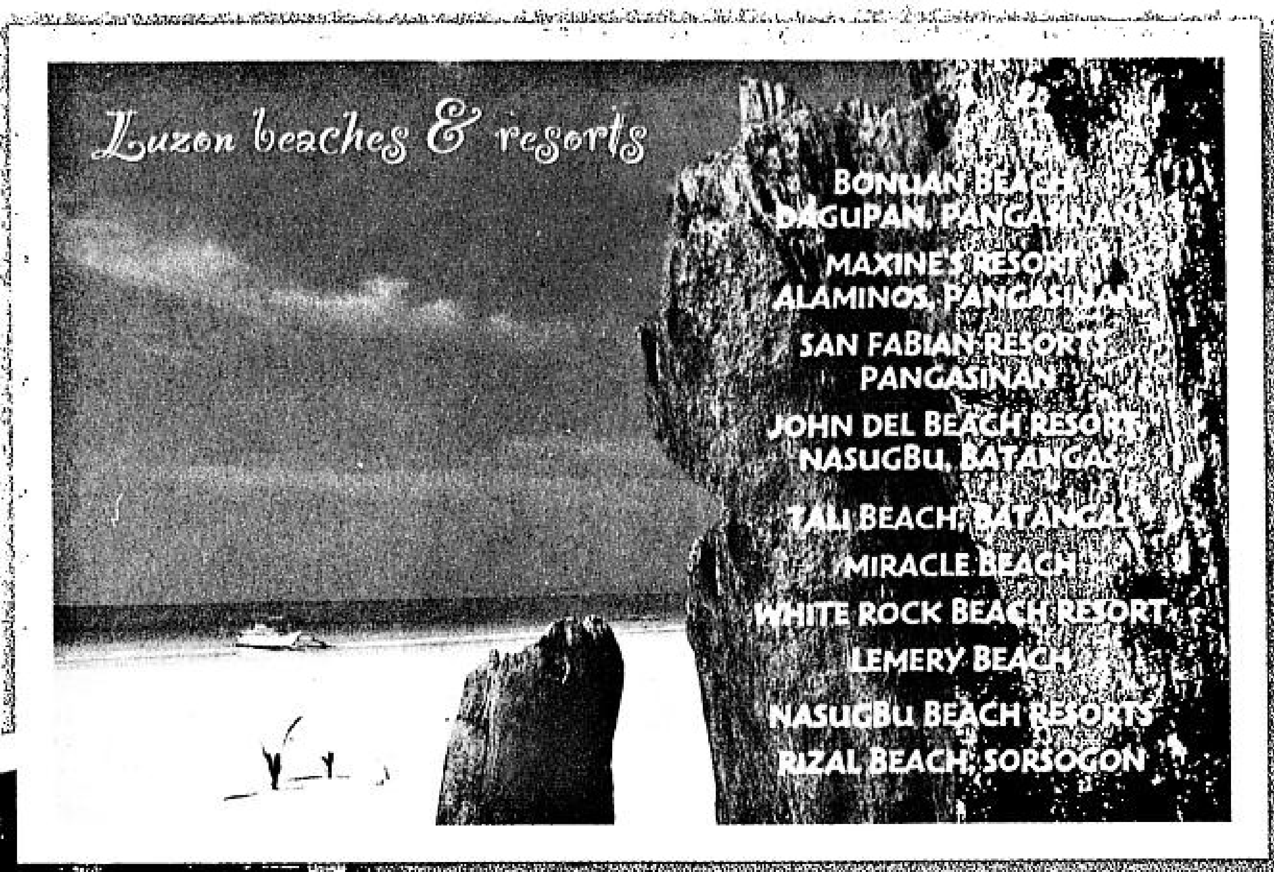

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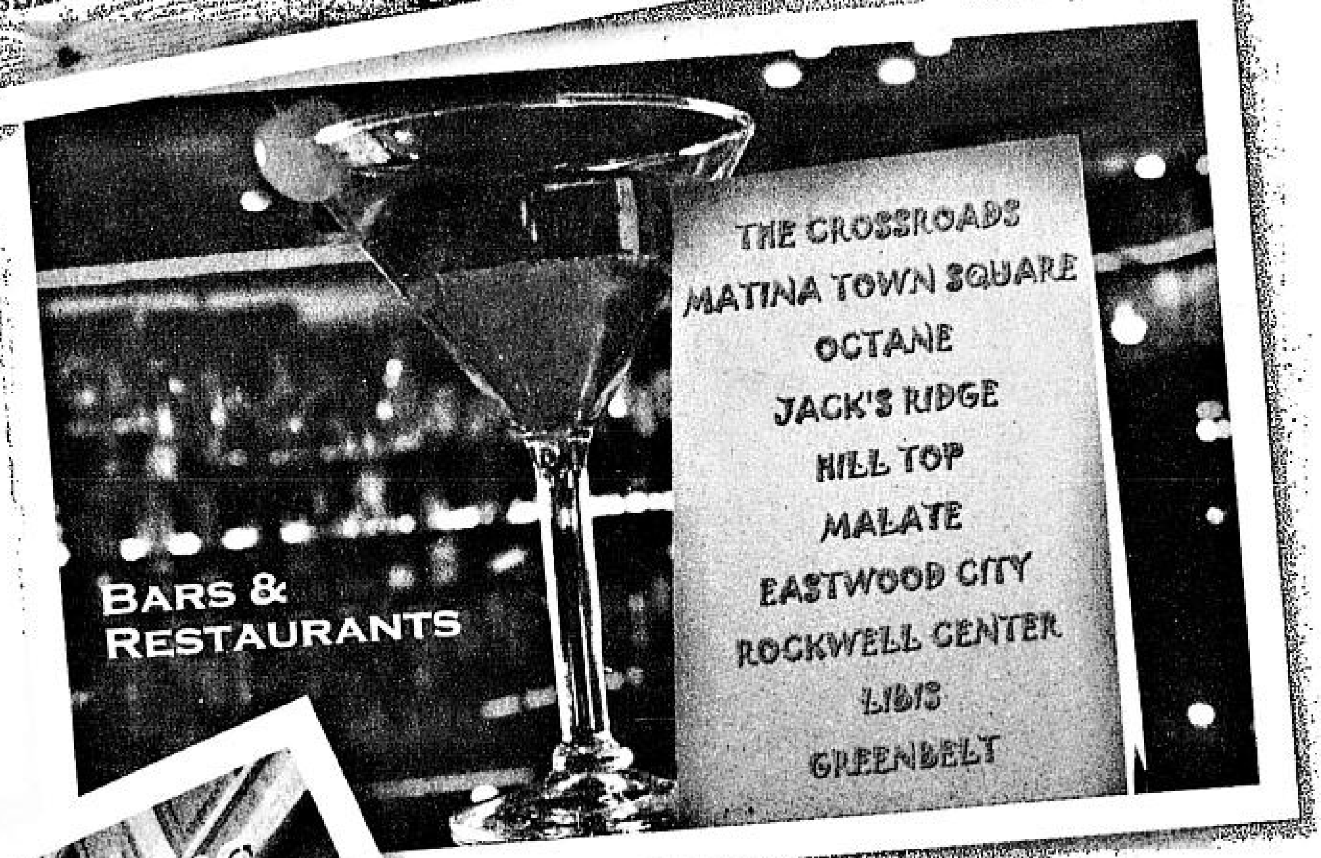

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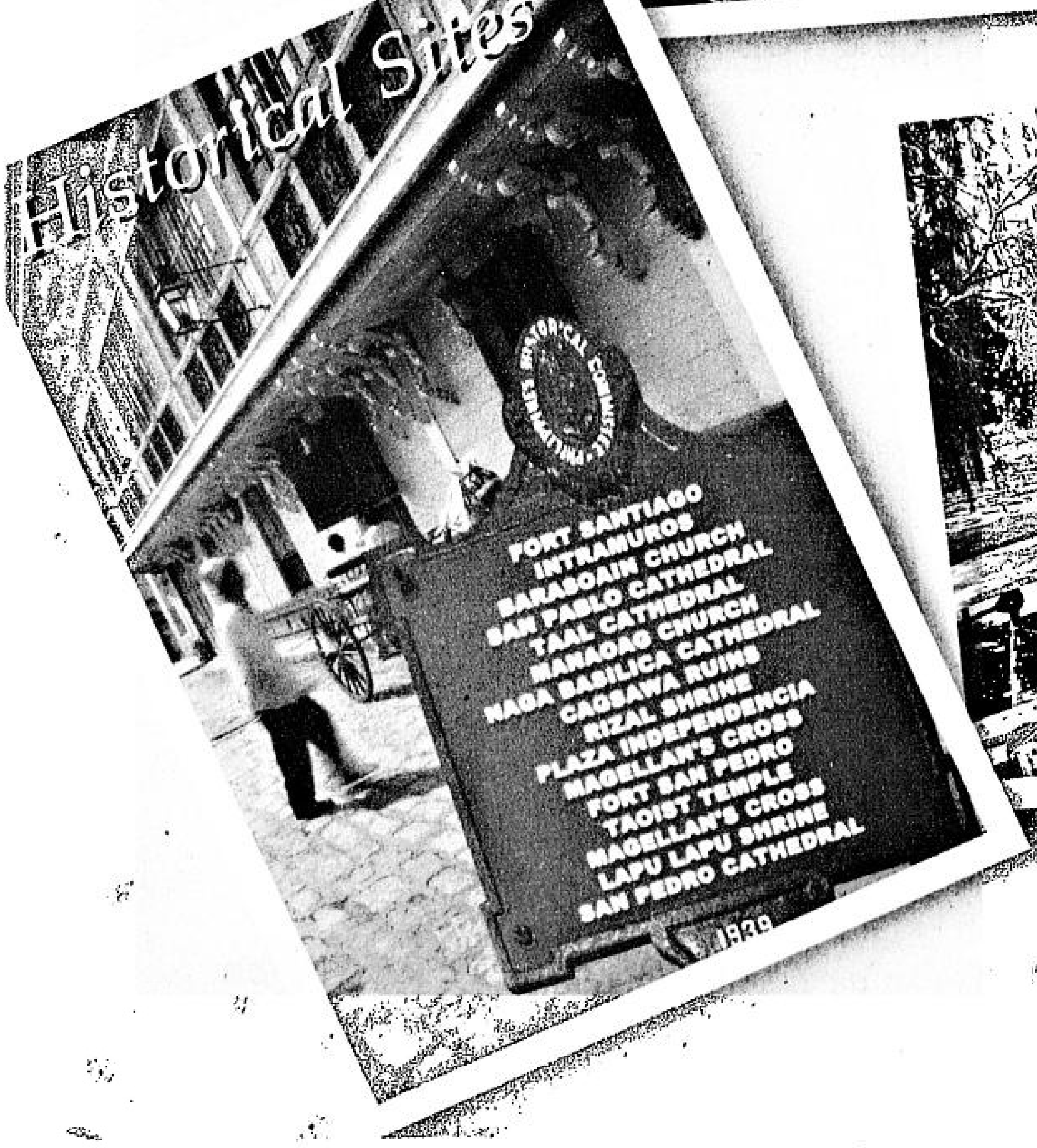

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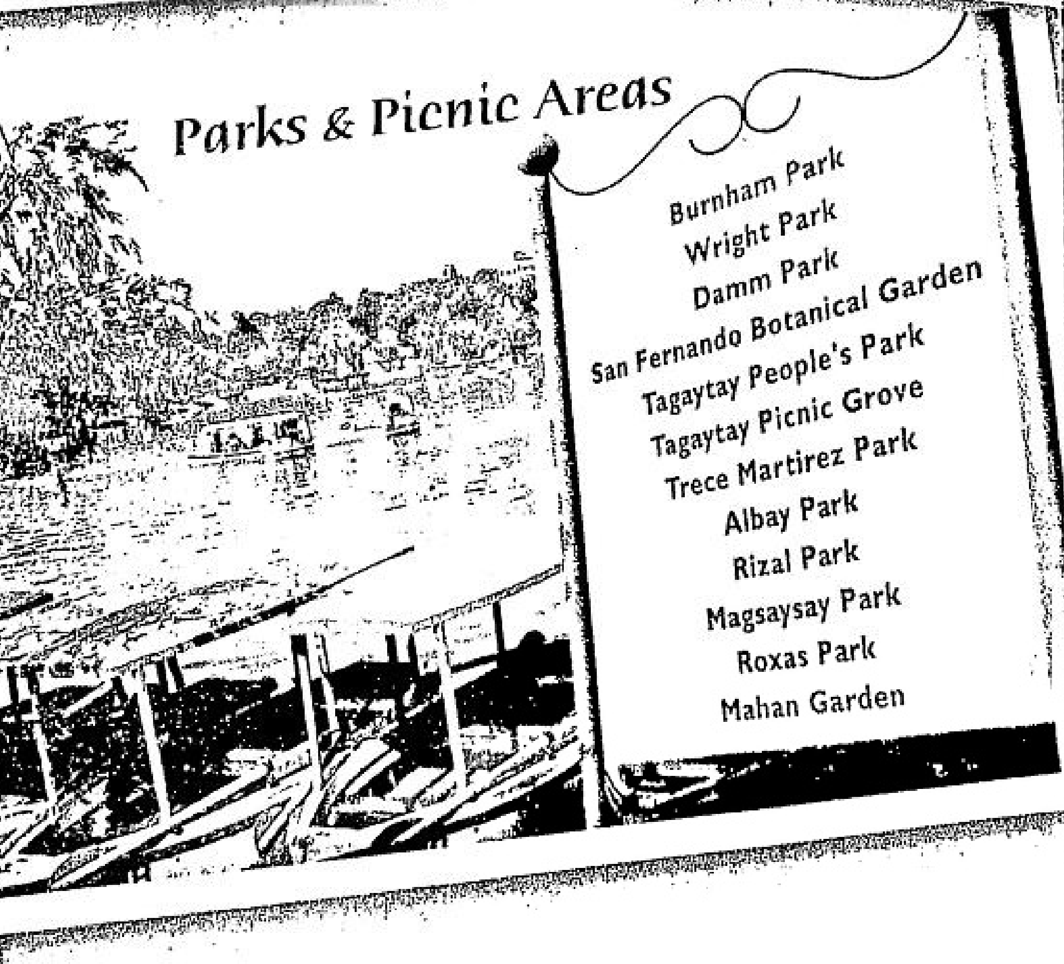

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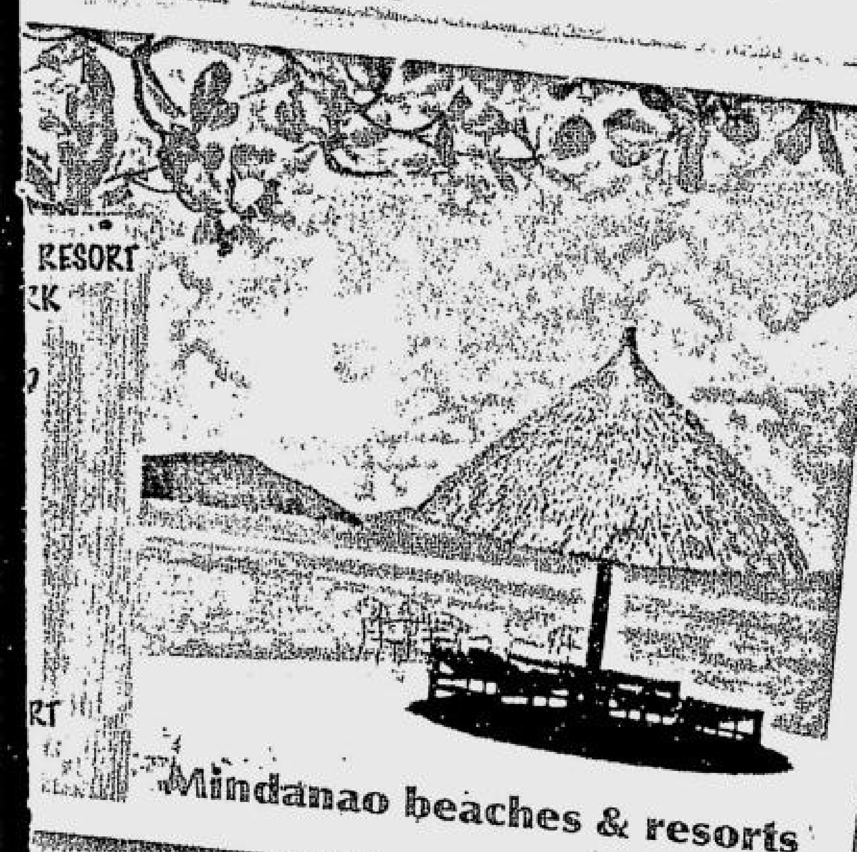
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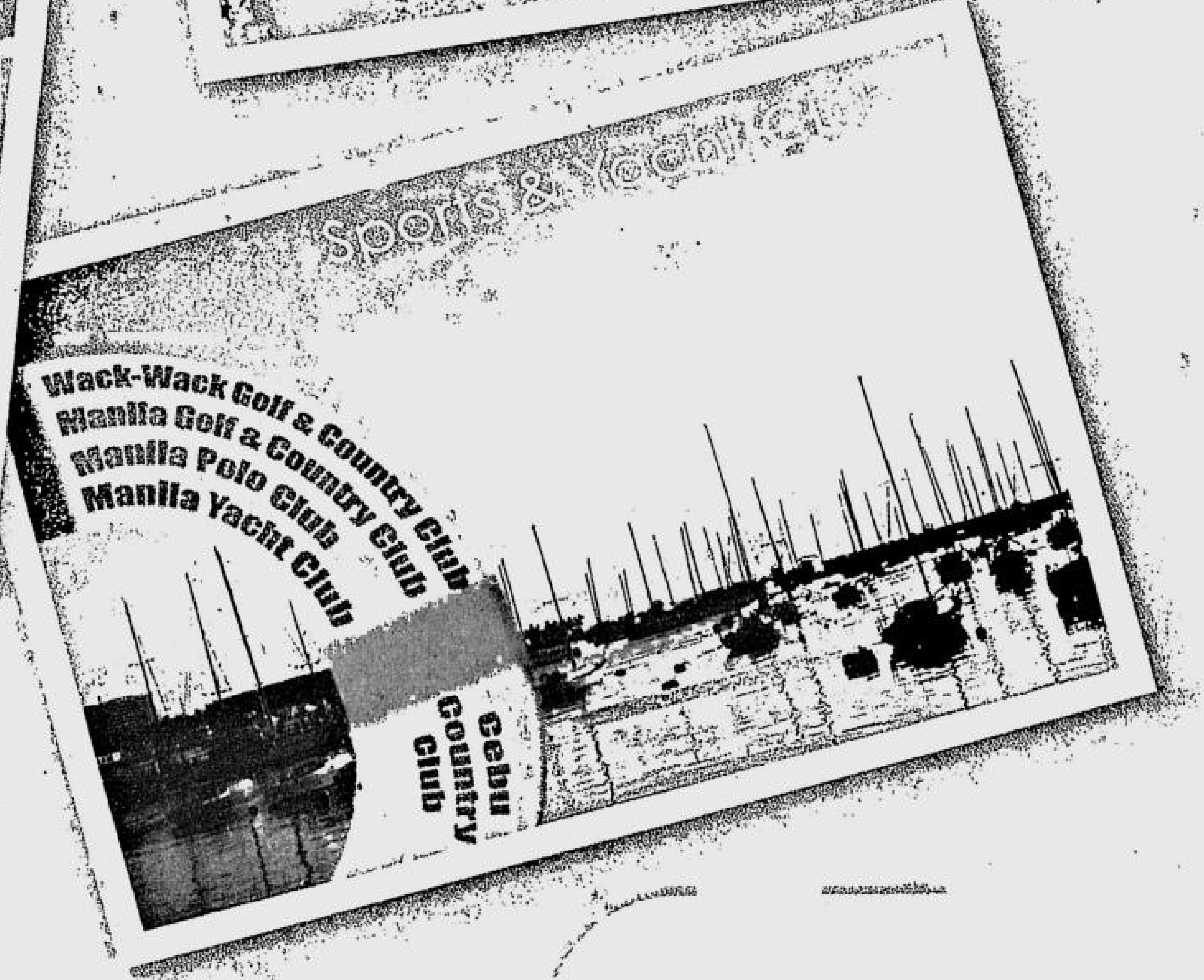
Mindanao beaches & resorts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Welcome to 'The OC'!

From page I1

with the witty "Beverly Hills, 90210" satire "Grosse Point" and the underrated "Popular," but both series ultimately danced to the death rattle of poor ratings in 2000-2001. Now, the attack continues with the sci-fi teen-idolness of "Smallville," the "Party of Five"-esque melodrama of "Everwood," and the basketball-as-a-metaphor-for-life freshness of "One Tree Hill." However, "The OC" from rival network Fox is the likely successor to the prom king throne and here's a couple reasons why.

More bounce in California

First of all, the backdrop is pretty sick. The show's executive producer McG—he of "Charlie's Angels" fame—and creator Josh Schwartz are both real-deal Orange County misfits. Their decision to make blingin' Newport Beach the setting of "The OC" (although Malibu stunt-doubles during shoots) was logical since their perspectives are from the inside out. History has proven that audiences go bonkers for fictional characters with undeniably privileged lives, but McG and Schwartz were careful not to make the lead families of "The OC," the Cohens and the Coopers, appear cartoon-like. Instead, the duo presents their stories with equal parts of gloss and grit and ghettoizes otherwise tricked-out digs with the occasional can of designer worms.

Next, "The OC" deals with issues that are emblematic of the universal teen-to-twentysomething experience. Although effectively cheekboned, the kids of "The OC" use their innate screen charisma to portray believable characters. In the pilot episode, for instance, Ryan (Benjamin McKenzie) and Seth (Adam Brody) are invited to a beach house party with enough blow to light up the Eiffel Tower. A lovable dork, Seth reacted with a combination of awe and terror upon discovering that the first A-list party he's ever been invited to was like a drug-den free-for-all. In another episode, princess-next-door Marissa (Mischa Barton) ODs on a cocktail of tequila and Vicodin, a reflection of the prescription drug problem that both NBC's "Dateline" and Teen Vogue have recently brought to mass attention. The cast's very aware portrayal of sheltered youth coming of age too fast is full of sassy irony and anti-method acting. They've clearly learned from the mistakes of their incredibly angsty '90s counterparts like Claire Danes in "My So-Called Life," which to me is a sign of our generation's evolution. More than that, the ensemble is made up of actors who are unknown enough to grow into their characters as the series progresses.

Last and most interestingly, "The OC" understands the kinetic relationship between cannonball-like dialogue and good music. Seen by millions of pairs of eyeballs in the gilded 18-26 crowd—the iPod people—this bubbling-under Fox program is exceptional since it also prides itself in being a springboard for alternative musical talent. "The OC" champions emo, or emotional rock. Best personified by Adam Brody's character Seth, emo is a "controversial term for punk-influenced hard rock that plumbs the emotional depths of teen angst with something approaching intelligence," according to Vanity Fair's Rock Snob Dictionary Volume 3. "The OC" features music from familiar Cali acts like Phantom Planet and Rooney to more independent bands such as Aqualung and I Am Kloot. With music-oriented producers on board, the show's soundtrack also dips into more mature ground with tunes from Peggy Lee, Jeff Buckley and Solomon Burke. To keep the essence of the show on-message, concessions to pop are thankfully made with the Black Eyed Peas, not with Hilary Duff.

The greatest view

As a young TV zombie, I seem to be attracted by shows with scheming barely-legals, rich punks, and scruffy rebels since everlasting youth is admittedly a leitmotif in my world. So to speak, "The OC" puts a little tongue into the kiss of my vicarious experience, which is why I think it's the greatest thing I've seen lately. I don't think I'll shit-can my soft spot for TV shows like "The OC" just yet.

To cynical adults, it may seem retarded to escape from the harsh truths of life through a breakout show set in Orange County. I disagree. More than an awesome distraction, "The OC" successfully flash-freezes that moment when you feel invincible, carefree, and really, really hot. Youth only happens once, that precise moment before life's bullies—the Luke Wards of the real world—kneecap the shit out of you and shout, "Welcome to the OC, bitch!"

(Is SoCal cool? Catch "The OC" on cable channel ETC, Tuesdays at 9 p.m. Mail me at worldclassjackass@yahoo.ca, beeyatch!)

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SUPER! SCOOP

A Pitt stop with Brad Pitt

By Alexis L. Loinaz

IF your face has launched a thousand magazines, racing pulses and "Sexiest Man Alive" gibes, what else is there to do? Well, how about playing a mythical hero worthy of the gods.

That's precisely what Brad Pitt does in "Troy," Warner Bros.' big-budget sword-and-sandals adaptation of Homer's "The Iliad." In it, Hollywood's poster boy for Adonis-hood inhabits the role of Achilles. Yes, that Achilles—heel and all.

For those a little rusty on their Cliff's Notes, Achilles is the warrior whom Agamemnon, King of the Mycenaeans, dispatches to retrieve Helen—of the launch-a-thousand-ships fame—after she leaves her husband, Agamemnon's brother King Menelaus, for Prince Paris of Troy.

As is appropriate for a tale of Homerian proportions, the film features sweeping battle scenes, eardrum-piercing sword fights, the latest collection of flowing Greek garb and just-off-the-mail-order-catalog body armor, and enough gloriously lit shots of Brad Pitt to turn him into this year's gladiator. Or a spokesman for radiantly blond hair dye.

It's also enough to remind you that "Trojan" was once a word associated with a stories-tall horse, and not a brand of condoms.

Shot in exotic locations that ranged from Malta to Mexico, the film itself weathered a string of epic setbacks. They included everything from hundred-degree heat and hurricanes that ransacked sets, to a ballooning budget and a last-minute relocation from Morocco to Malta after the US war with Iraq became imminent.

Then, there was the one major stumbling block that sidelined the production for several months: Pitt—here comes the tragicomic part, now—tore his Achilles tendon.

These days, Pitt remains a cheerful sport about it all, waxing philosophic about the nature of the story's characters and giving props to his co-stars, who include Eric Bana and Orlando Bloom, for enduring such a demanding shoot.

It's all in keeping with Pitt's laid-back persona. After all, the 40-year-old actor has seen his share of battles in Hollywood. Since giving audiences a collective orgasm in 1991 for his scene-stealing turn in "Thelma and Louise," in which he played a hustler who pleasures and then cons Geena Davis' character, Pitt has added both smashes and clunkers to his eclectic resumé. He also copped an Oscar nomination in 1996 for his kooky supporting turn in "Twelve Monkeys."

While he's often remembered for his Fabio-esque performance in "Legends of the Fall," few realize that only three of his films—"Interview With the Vampire," "Seven" and "Ocean's Eleven"—are bona fide box-office hits that made over $100 million. The rest, while noteworthy in showcasing Pitt's desire to stretch as an actor—include a slew of forgettable duds: "The Devil's Own," "Meet Joe Black," "The Mexican," "Spy Game."

Still, his blinding star power and affable personality—not to mention his high-profile marriage to Jennifer Aniston—have kept him high on the A list and a prime target for the paparazzi and the glossies. It's something "Troy" won't likely remedy any time soon.

Last month, Pitt met with reporters in New York, where he gamely braved a gauntlet of interviews enough to fell Achilles. Dressed in a bicep hugging yellow-and-gray striped shirt and faded jeans—his head shorn of its L'Oreal-tressed glory—Pitt spoke with the relaxed, low droll of a surfer.

As he entered the hotel suite, he let out a huge sigh before plopping down on his chair and flashing the gracious smile of the weary. When you're an actor of this magnitude—in a film of this scale and with the stakes so high—the battle is never over.

This film really put you through the ringer: You quit smoking, packed on considerable muscle and went through swordsmanship boot camp. What was the toughest thing about it all?

I had a lot of time going into it—dialect, doing a lot of research, dealing with a classic piece of literature. The most difficult thing was after the research, you get so into the story [but you] have to wait to film it. The initial training was really difficult. It's a very arduous, difficult shoot: 100-degree weather, difficult locations which were beautiful. They really paid off. So what was the toughest thing? I really think it was just having to wait to shoot the stuff.

What convinces a person to take on a role as mythic as Achilles—in a film based on "The Iliad," no less?

There were several reasons. I loved his plight, this unrest, this search for some kind of meaning in his life, this decision he must make for some kind of ideal of glory. He has this line: "I want what all men want, I just want it more." Family and love—he's always wrestling with it. He was forged from experience; it wasn't about adopting any belief system or dogma or something that he knew to be true. He had to experience it and make some very bad mistakes. I loved ultimately that he was a man. And I find this all very interesting and very human.

I think your most compelling performances have been the ones in which you've scruffed yourself up: "Twelve Monkeys," "Snatch," "Fight Club" ...

I think so ... I think they've been more interesting.

And here, you literally play a demigod.

Yeah.

A PITT/J2

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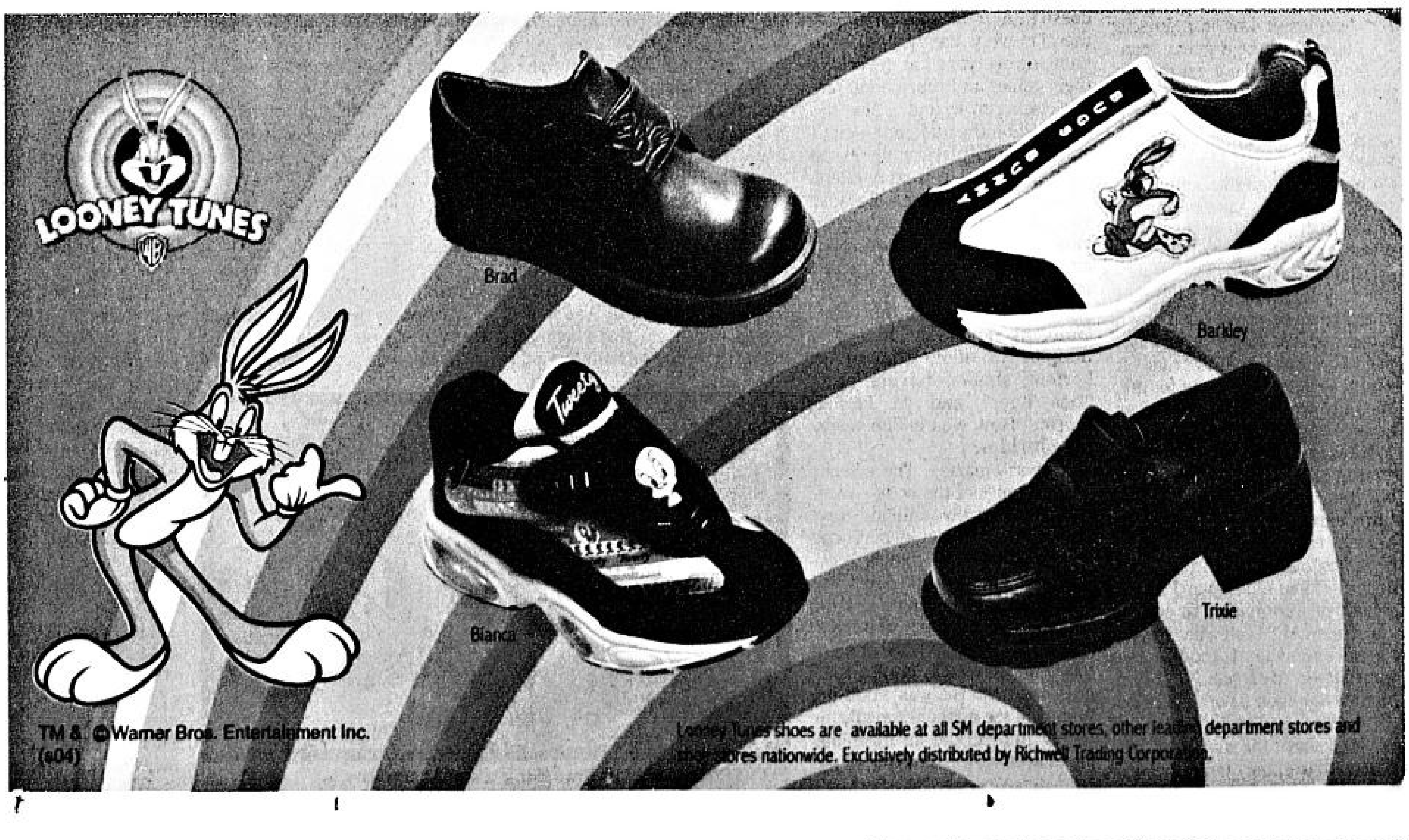

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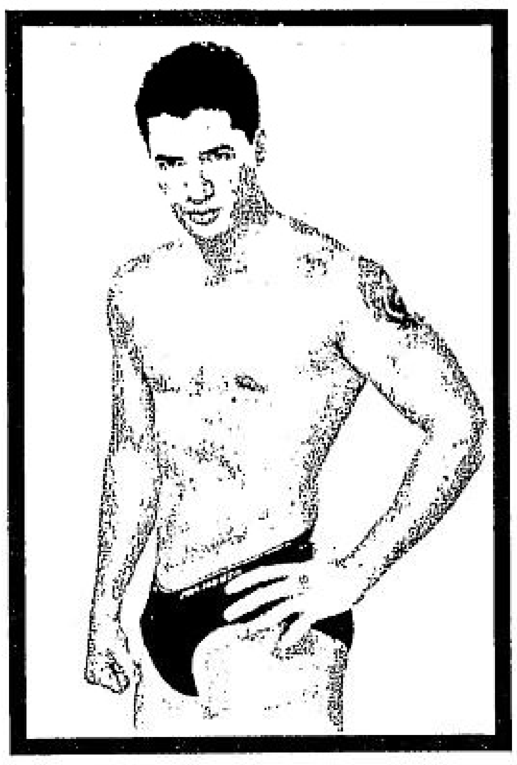

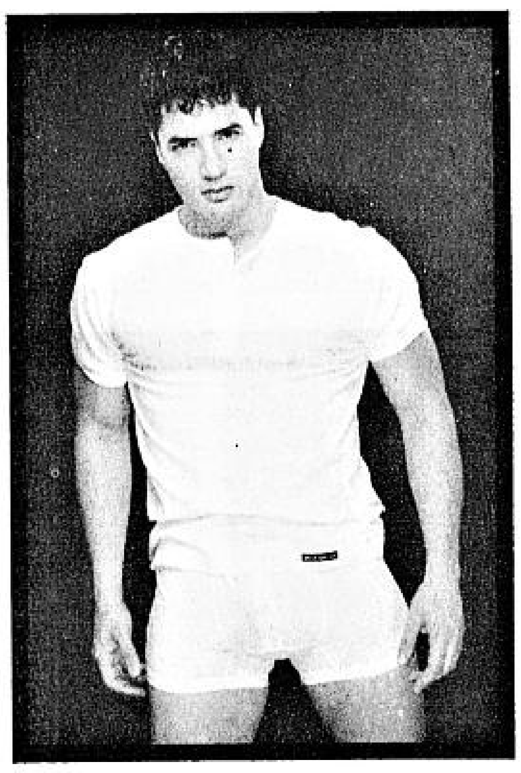

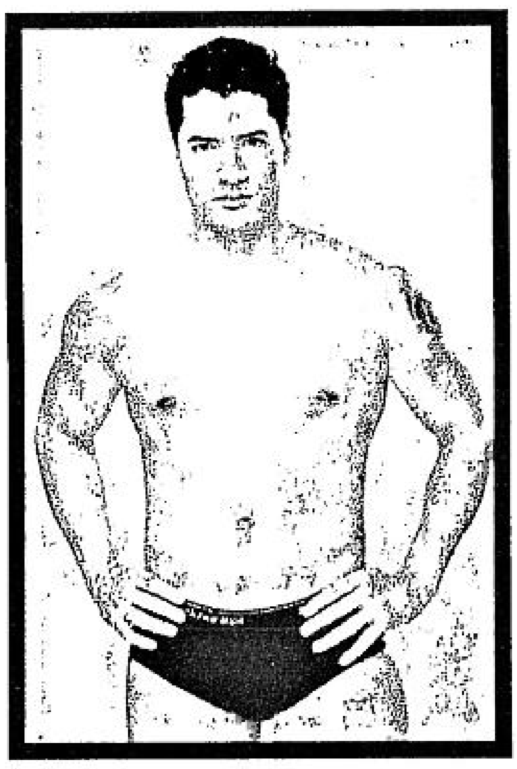

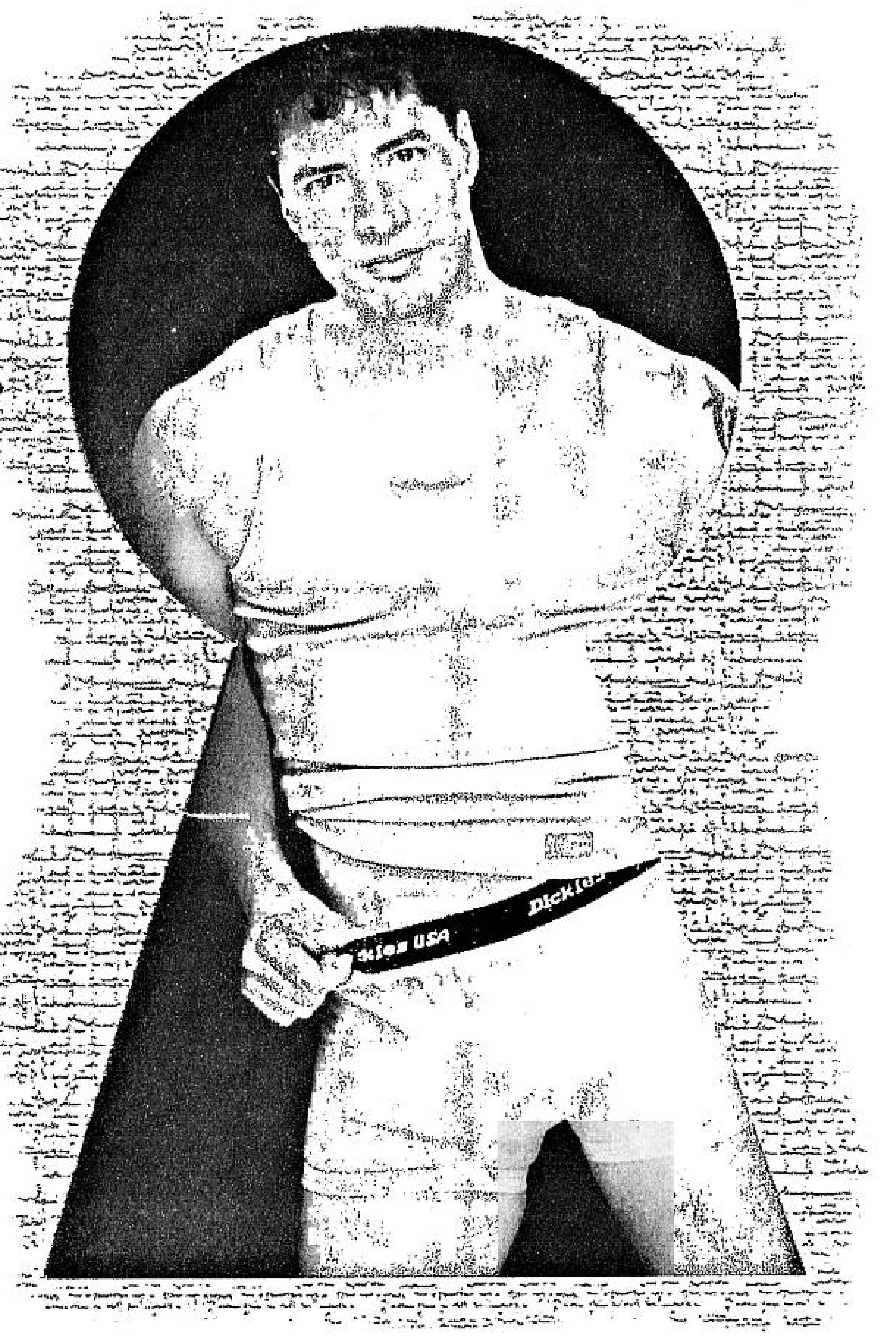

HAVE you seen Troy yet? Better still, have you seen Troy's Dickies?

Then scamper over to Ratsky's (eek! eek!) at Tomas Morato on Friday, 21st of May to see "Exposed!" featuring Troy as the new endorser of Dickies' underwear.

He will be joined by the hottest hard court players and male mannequins on a night of pure frolic. Picture this—giants Asi Taulava, Don Allado, John Ferriols, Brandon Cablay, Willy Wison, Al Magpayo, among others—all in their bare essentials.

After years of resolutely keeping his clothes on, Troy has finally decided to shed them to reveal his Dickies (pun intended). Aubrey Miles and the rest of the female (and female wannabe) population will be pleased.

Super! stripped him for your eyes only, and as you can see, this new chapter of Troy's story will give us a deeper sense of undie-standing.

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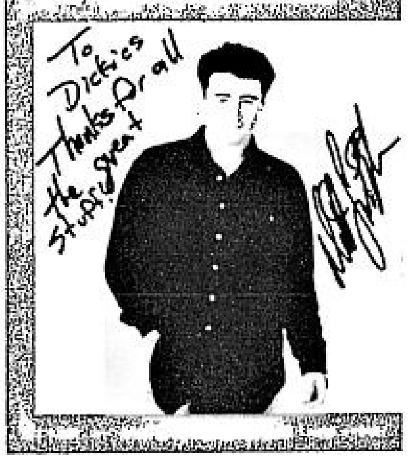


To Dickies
Thanks for all
the great
stuff

A Pitt Stop with Brad Pitt

From page J1

Do you hope to go back to some of those quirky characters?

No, I'll bounce around. But this one, it was really important to start off [with] that demigod exterior, and to see the inner turmoil to that. To me, it makes the inner turmoil all the more resonant with the idea that he's got everything on the fame side, but also something more serious.

Do you think your choice of roles, then, has been unusual?

I don't ... [pauses] I guess it's unusual. It hasn't felt unusual. But Achilles, it was just time to take on something, I guess, iconic. Dealing with the great themes that resonate in all our lives. I had not worked for two years and it came along and I really ... it just spoke to me. It felt like the right thing to do. It felt like something really difficult to take on, and it was gonna take a lot of work, which it was. I was really hungry for that at the time.

You just wanna try different things because you've been down certain roads. And I'm just not one to keep repeating that. It would be very wearisome for me. You just wanna try new things and see how you stand up.

How does one research a character this mythic and lofty, but then bring it down to something earthy and real?

Well, fortunately there's been so much research and writing done on "The Iliad" that I had a wealth of information to peruse and digest. And I call what speaks to me and what I know I can translate on the screen. So I had months and months of time to do the research and really, really enjoy. And that's the most fun. Because that's the point where you're discovering. That's the point where you explore.

Tell us about the shoot.

I lived a real monastic life in Malta, in a stone house on the side of a hill, and kept pretty isolated because it's one of the weird things we actors do. But it really helps for the tone of the part. We invest all this time, and we really give up a lot of our lives. It's a real joy for us, to see all that work when it's all put together.

You never know if it's gonna jell or not. It's just that magic that happens in film—it does or it doesn't. And to see something that I'm very happy with, and knowing everyone's at the best of their game, and that people are responding to it, and it also has an effect on the audience—that's really a high. [It's] is a big reason why we do this: to be storytellers. That's really rewarding. Because you know, there are more bad movies that good movies. But more good intentions than bad intentions.

Your director on this film, Wolfgang Petersen, knows a thing or two about difficult, laborious shoots, having done "Das Boot" and "A Perfect Storm." How was it like working with him?

He was amazing. The essence of the themes of the book—Wolfgang kept that alive with his storytelling. And we would have one crew of 200 with a thousand extras, and three miles down the beach you'd have another crew with the same amount of people. And he's gotta keep track of all of this. And he was in hundred-degree weather. He was fantastic. What you see up there is really his vision. And he did an ingenious job of keeping the intimacy, of the dramatic areas with just a few characters, and then [claps his hands] exploding the film into this large, giant scope and scale. So it's really, really, really to his credit.

There's a pivotal scene in this film in which Achilles is confronted by his enemy, King Priam, played by the eminent Peter O'Toole, to ask for mercy. According to Wolfgang, you broke down while shooting that scene and had to compose yourself before resuming the shoot.

It was a very, very heavy scene for me. I mean, I knew it's one of the great scenes in literature, and I know I'm doing it with one of the great actors of all time. And it wasn't something that was even on the schedule. Another hurricane had come in, so we had to jump in. It was a rain-covered set, so we just kind of got thrown into it.

It was such an important scene to me I guess because Achilles has always dealt in might and in force. And Priam comes in and completely [disarms] him, piece by piece, with words. And in this scene, they form this kinship of suffering—they've both lost people they love. And through Priam's example, it seems like the lines between the two enemies—my side versus your side—are erased. It just ... [stumbles for words] it meant a lot to me. I know we hit it on the [first] day. I know it's the best acting I've ever been involved with. So I don't know if it was shock, if it was just euphoria after that scene.

You prance around quite a bit in your birthday suit in this film. Was that uncomfortable?

I've been doing this long enough that I'm used to this scenario of having 30 sweaty guys standing around with booms. So, the answer is no. But I just didn't realize I was the only one doing it. These Greeks, they were naked all the time—it was hot. They played ball naked. They ate naked. They were just naked. They were naked people. And it wasn't any emphasis on it. It wasn't taboo or puritanical, as it certainly is here in America.

Although this film does have some fairly bloody moments, in general you're photographed quite flatteringly—all bronze-skinned and heroic. Have your looks posed any kind of challenge?

Listen, a lot of emphasis in films are based on it. So, certainly it's opened doors. But it's also hindered me in doing other parts that they don't see you right for. I see it as playing with the cards you're dealt. And I've been fortunate.

Well, you and your wife, Jennifer Aniston, were recently named by People Magazine as two of the 50 Most Beautiful People.

[Laughs] Oh, is that right? Did we both get it?

Would you agree with the choices?

[Jokes] Oh, yeah completely! [laughs] I'd put her on there.

Well, you and Jennifer have put up a production company, Plan B, which co-produced Troy.

Well, as co-producers they kind of let us onboard, really, to give it a jump-start.

And now you'll be producing a remake of the Willy Wonka film called "Charlie and Chocolate Factory," starring Johnny Depp. You've also optioned the memoir by Mariane Pearl, the wife of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. How's it like to wear a different hat—a producer's hat?

It's nice to see something from the ground up. It's another kind of endeavor and satisfaction when it's done well. Stories are the most fun—it's what I've found. And there's a lot of stories out there that I'm not right for. We've gotten to take on things like Mariane Pearl's book—developing her and Daniel Pearl's story. That's a really important one to me. So I get behind stories that mean something to me that I wouldn't be right to act in.

What kind of stories do you find yourself gravitating toward? The Mariane Pearl story is of considerable weight.

Yeah, I tend to go that way. The thing with production companies is that you need to balance it out. That's certainly the one that means the most to me personally right now. Others serve different purposes.

Jennifer hinted to Vogue in December that she was looking at the Mariane Pearl role. Would she do it?

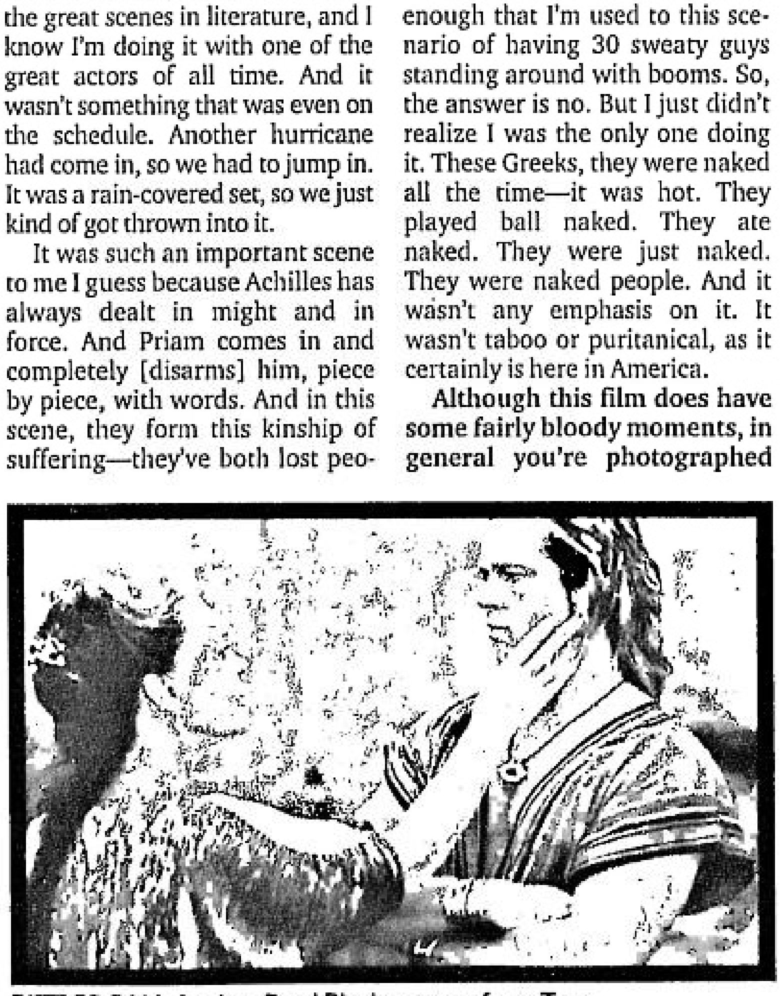
That would be undecided. And I doubt it, I think. We don't know at this point. We've gotta see what kind of shape we can get the script in and then see who's best for it. It's certainly not some kind vehicle for her or anything. It if makes some sense for her at the time, then we would [do it].

How does it feel to be 40?

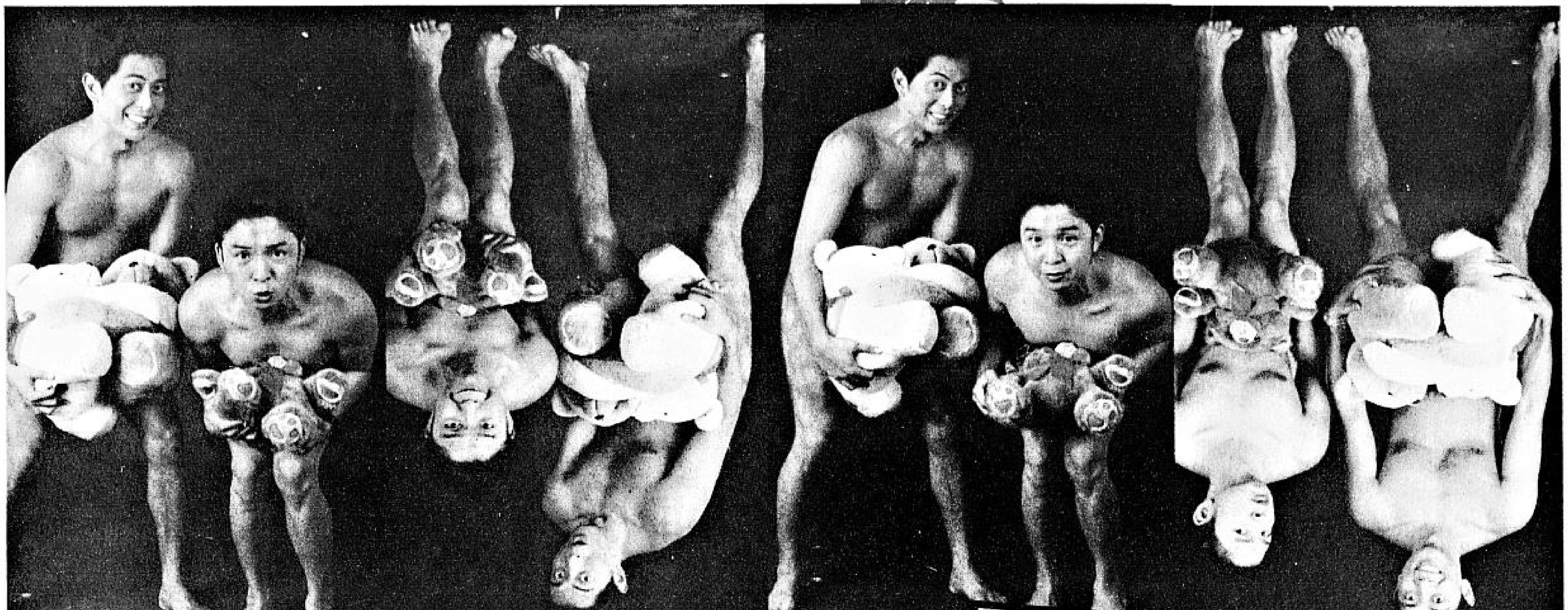
I turned 40 in December. I'm really enjoying it. I see it as some kind of badge of honor. I'm really happy I made it. I like the wisdom that comes with age. I don't mind the trade-off of youthful inexperience. I like it. If it goes this way, I'm all for it.

Then again, there is a trade-off to being in the spotlight. Some US magazines, for instance, seem convinced that you and this actress or that actress are an item. Have you gotten better at dealing with rumors and innuendos?

You just turn your back to them and go on. Because usually the truth comes out in the wash. Meaning, in time. So you can't spend too much time of your life just worrying about it and fighting it. It's just much easier to just keep enjoying your life. It'll all be set right.

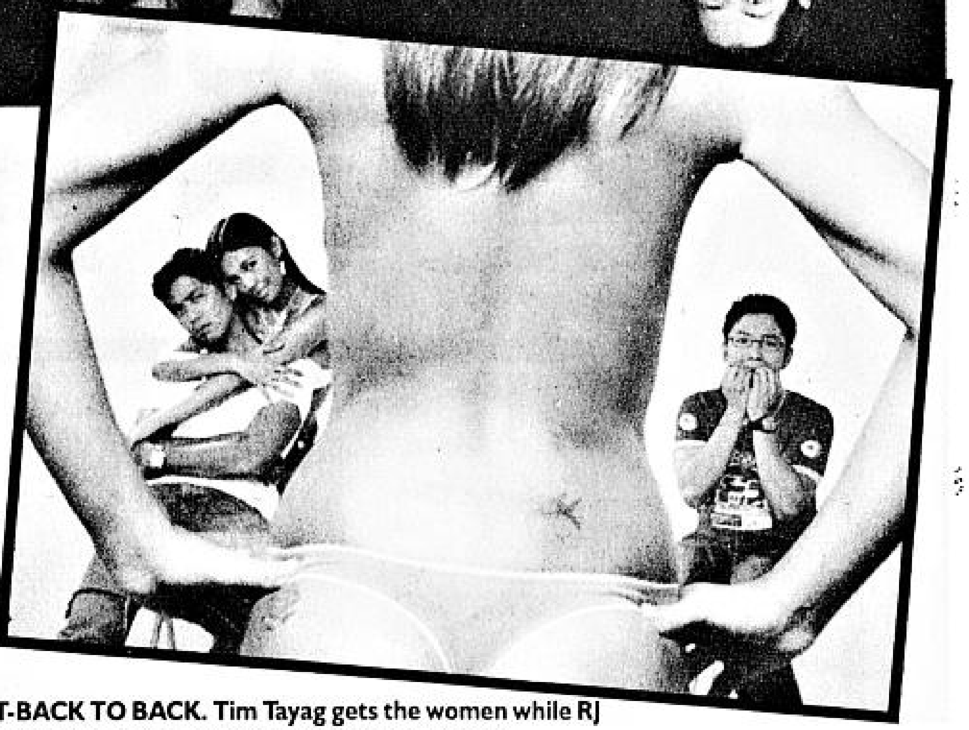


PITT-ER PAN. Ageless Brad Pitt in a scene from Troy



BEAR NAKED and topsy-turvy with Tim Tayag and RJ Ledesma

Zeit-guys in 'The Men's Room'



T-BACK TO BACK. Tim Tayag gets the women while RJ Ledesma gets the Royal Tru-Orange treatment

By Martin Valdes

> A maverick infamous for blazing wit and withering cynicism, and a businessman still waiting for puberty to sink in make an unlikely couple with a lot to say

IT'S good to be a guy. The species requires little to subsist and thrive, and has proven resilient to evolution and change, almost as much as the Nile crocodile and the common cockroach. Millions of years have straightened his back and diminished his facial hair, but in his heart, he's still the same old Neanderthal that we all fell in love with in the first place. On May 25, the devolution begins within "The Men's Room."

Tim Tayag and RJ Ledesma are two regular guys with not-so regular careers. Tim is a regular maverick on the stand-up comedy circuit infamous for his blazing wit and withering cynicism. RJ is a businessman-cum-event host who is still waiting for puberty to sink in. Together, they make an unlikely couple with a lot of things to say. Now they've got a spanking new platform called "The Men's Room" from which they intend to share their observations. God help us all.

The show focuses on the two zeit-guys exploring the intricacies of the Filipino male living in a world bursting with glorious potential. Basically, they're trying to pick-up women. Bouncing off one another's dynamic, polarized personalities, "The Men's Room" hopes to capitalize on the relationship enjoyed and endured between RJ and Tim (think Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson).

Every Tuesday at 11:30 in the evening on Channel 23, we can hence follow the misadventures of the two semi-buff, pseudo-intelligent, and very funny guys, as they plot and plod through a bevy of beautiful guests and gorgeous regulars. They're on right after "Oprah" and offer everything she doesn't. In their own words, "The Men's Room" is "the anti-Oprah." Here are some excerpts from the Super! interview with the two bathroom bandits.

On the show:

RJ: We have one guest per show, always a woman…

Tim: A sexy, smart woman…

RJ: …and Tim and I are in a weekly competition to see who gets the girl.

Tim: There are interviews, comedy sketches, body paintings, tutorials and games. We even have one reality-based improv segment called "Who's the Man?" wherein we assume the role of a regular guy with an odd job, like a fishball vendor, and try to get women to go out with us as such.

On the purpose of the show:

Tim: To enlighten all the men out there, to show them how to get more women.

RJ: I thought we just wanted to see scantily-clad women?

On the dangers of a misogynistic perspective:

Tim: We'd rather not use the word "misogynist." Some of our viewers won't know what that means.

RJ: "The Men's Room" humorously depicts the life and times of the Pinoy male, with no disrespect intended towards women. We do have fun being Pinoy males, but we're also poking fun at being a Pinoy male.

On what the show offers female viewers:

RJ: Tim and I?

Tim: Laughter. The best medicine.

RJ: We offer our viewers an option for late-night TV. Mostly you have investigative journalistic shows, infomercials or documentaries. With "The Men's Room," you have a late-night show that is fun, light and irreverent. And has scantily-clad women at the same time!

Tim: Although, I don't think we're above infomercials starring Chuck Norris or Christie Brinkley yet.

On similarities to "The Man Show" (in the US):

Tim: All similarities are purely coincidental. Besides, trampolines (for a Girls-on-Trampolines segment) are too expensive.

RJ: We may just have our production people tossing them around instead.

On a dream guest for the show:

RJ: One *lang*? Aubrey Miles, Phoem Barranda…?

Tim: RJ's mom. Tita Fortune Ledesma.

On why they're really doing this show:

Tim: To offer something different. Make 'em laugh, but also make them think. Guys will see how they can improve themselves, and girls may understand what's going on in a guy's mind. Mostly sex.

RJ: I just want to make money.

On those supposed "real" men out there, bursting with biceps and billboard ads:

Tim: Who are they?

RJ: Hello, my name is RJ. Please, watch our show.

"The Men's Room" airs 11:30 p.m. Tuesdays starting May 25 on Channel 23.

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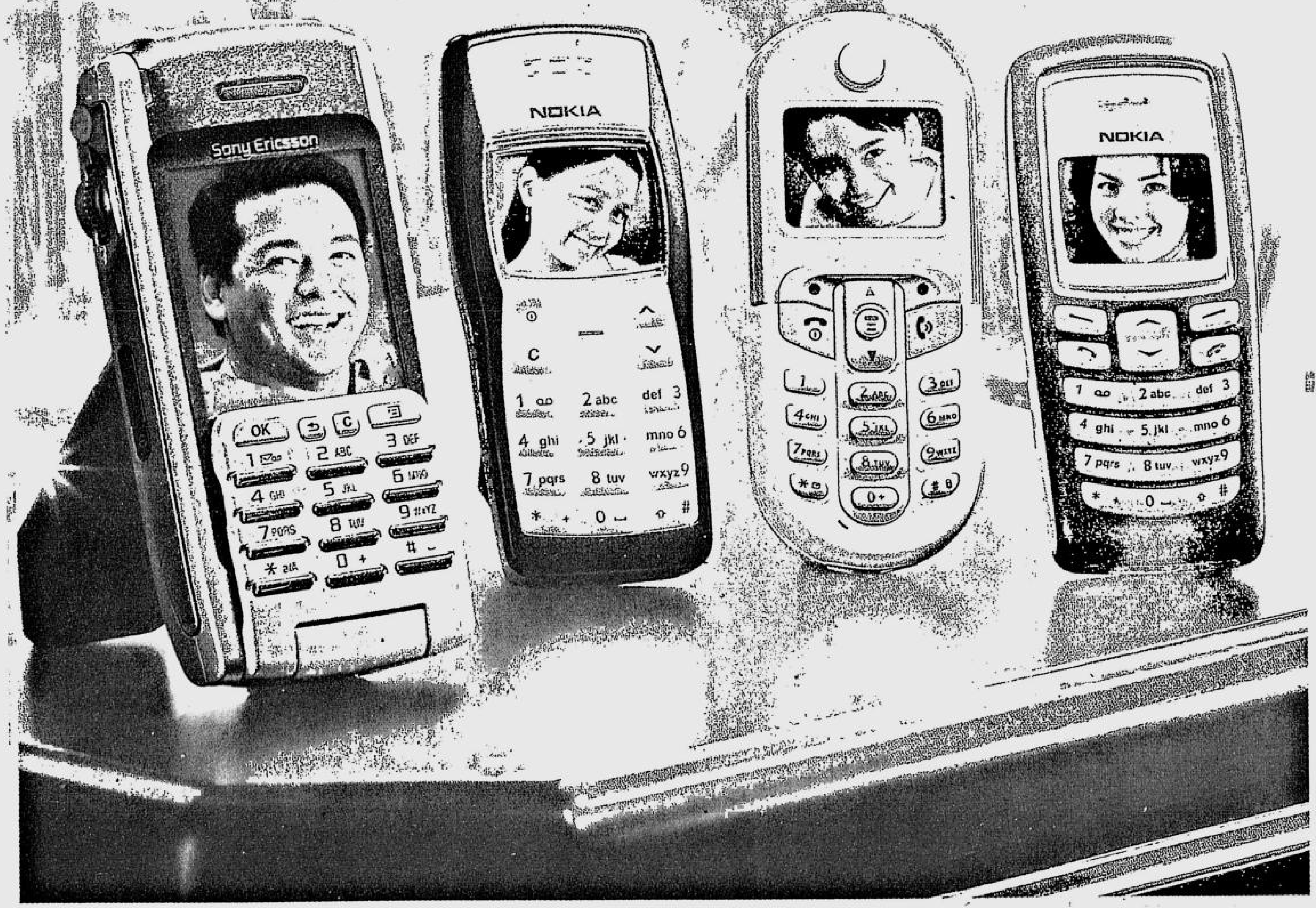

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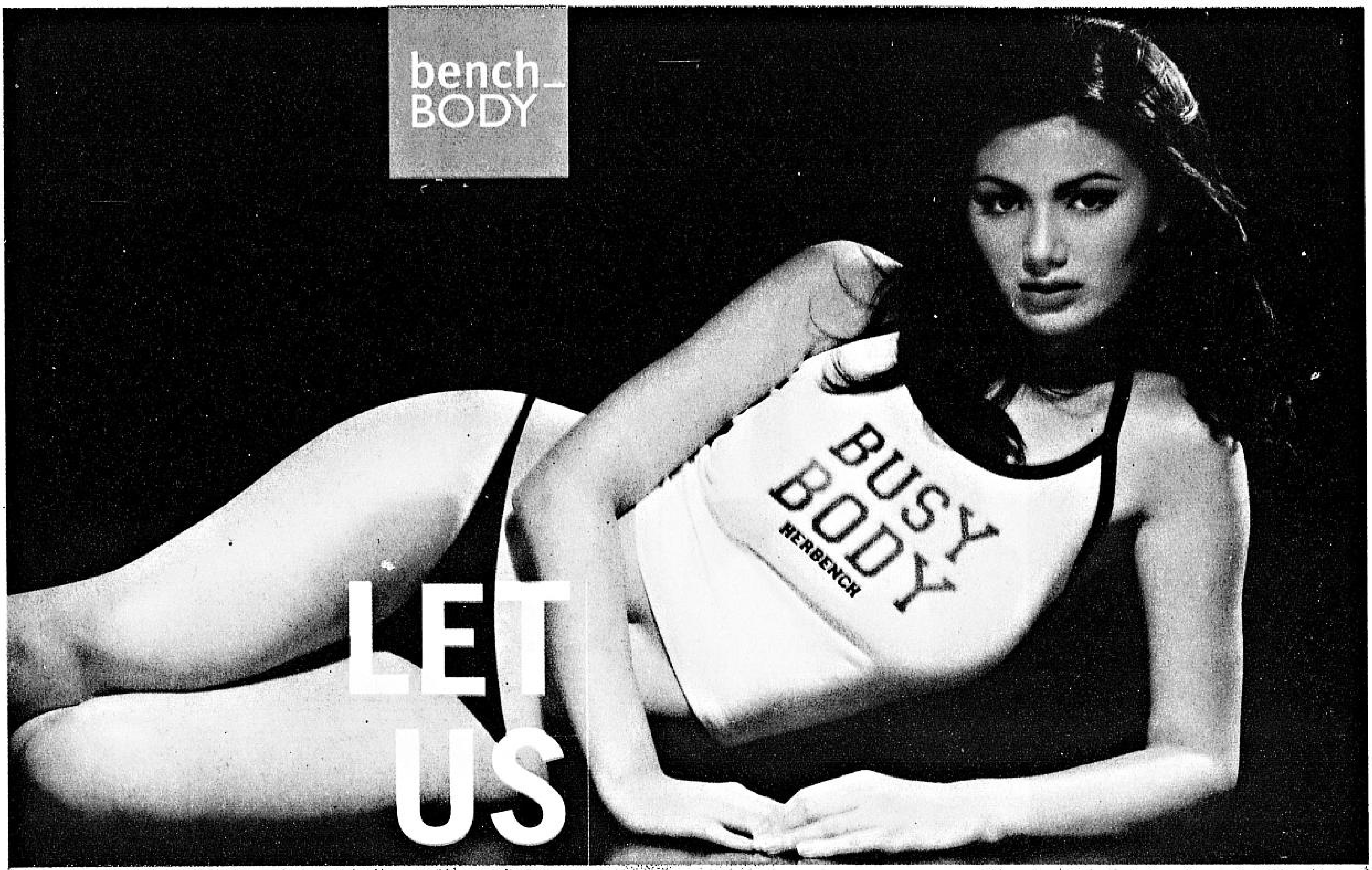


LET US HEAR YOUR BODY TALK

FRANCINE PRIETO

They never taught this in English class, but it's about time we all got fluent. It's called Bench_body language.

Chin up. Spine erect. Shoulders straight. Tummy tucked in. Buttocks out. And bedeck yourself in Bench_body underwear as outerwear.

Francine Prieto, master of body language, can be your teacher. As the new Bench_body image model, she uses undergarments as words to express her smoldering sexuality, her overflowing femininity, and unbridled sensuality. You can say she's one busybody.

She quickly [illegible] the talk [illegible] and hit [illegible] Shanghai's buzz, when she sashayed [illegible] down the runway at the hugely successful Bench_body ONE NIGHT ONLY Shanghai underwear show in April this year. The show not only showcased the latest Bench_Body Collection but was also a celebration of [illegible] the warm reception of the Shanghainese to the fast-growing brand. The Shanghai press went wild each time she came out to speak to them without a single word, and yet articulated herself in [illegible] effortlessly through lace, satin, denim, leather and pearls incorporated into her lingerie.

"The up-and-coming sexy star of Bridal Shower may definitely not be your traditional Filipina Maria Clara type, but she still manages to convey the mystery of concealing and revealing at the same time, which is the essence of wearing lingerie the right way. She uses undergarments as if they were paint, and bathes her body in them. Elegantly and confidently, she gives skinny dipping a whole new meaning," said one infatuated Shanghainese reporter.

According to Bench_body management, Francine was selected as their new image model because she fits in perfectly with the new direction that Bench_body is taking: not just your basic white cotton undergarments, but sexy lingerie as well. Francine's voluptuousness is celebrated through our more daring underwear lines. She best represents the kind of woman who likes to accentuate her curves, emphasize her assets and exude pure femininity. And she has the face that has sort of an international appeal. Eurasian looks, she also appears in our campaign in China. [illegible] you have not just a model, mannequin putting on our underwear, but a real woman that our customers can look up to.

Bench_body is an intimate underwear shop that caters to every kind of Asian woman. [illegible] kind of undergarments [illegible] lines, with products ranging from sporty bras and panty sets to [illegible] brassieres and much more. It has something for every woman to fit her lifestyle, mood, outlook and most practical needs.

Aside from the growing number of Bench_body stores in the Philippines, it has also branched out to China with two boutiques in Xiamen and one in Raffles City Mall Shanghai. By month's end, Bench_body will open two more stores in Shanghai.

And once [illegible] the world [illegible] woman may just be [illegible] Francine Prieto's body language [illegible].

When we asked Francine to [illegible] how she does her job so well, she answered with a wink: "[illegible] Bench_body provocative [illegible] well, it's what's inside that counts."

SHE'S ALL THAT

FOUR DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES. FOUR DIFFERENT AGES. FOUR DIFFERENT STYLES. FOUR DIFFERENT WOMEN. BUT THEY HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON. THEY ALL WEAR HERBENCH.

Kristine Hermosa, Lucy Torres Gomez, Shaina Magdayao, and Alessandra de Rossi are some of the most familiar faces in the Pinoy pop scene today. One has a sweet, wholesome leading lady appeal; another is a celebrity housewife/woman of style/mother; next is a child actress now blossoming into a young woman, and the last is an outspoken, sassy dark beauty who defies genres. But they've all got what they call the Feminine Mystique, that unmistakable quality that makes women the fairer sex, and the same thing that makes men so perpetually beguiled.

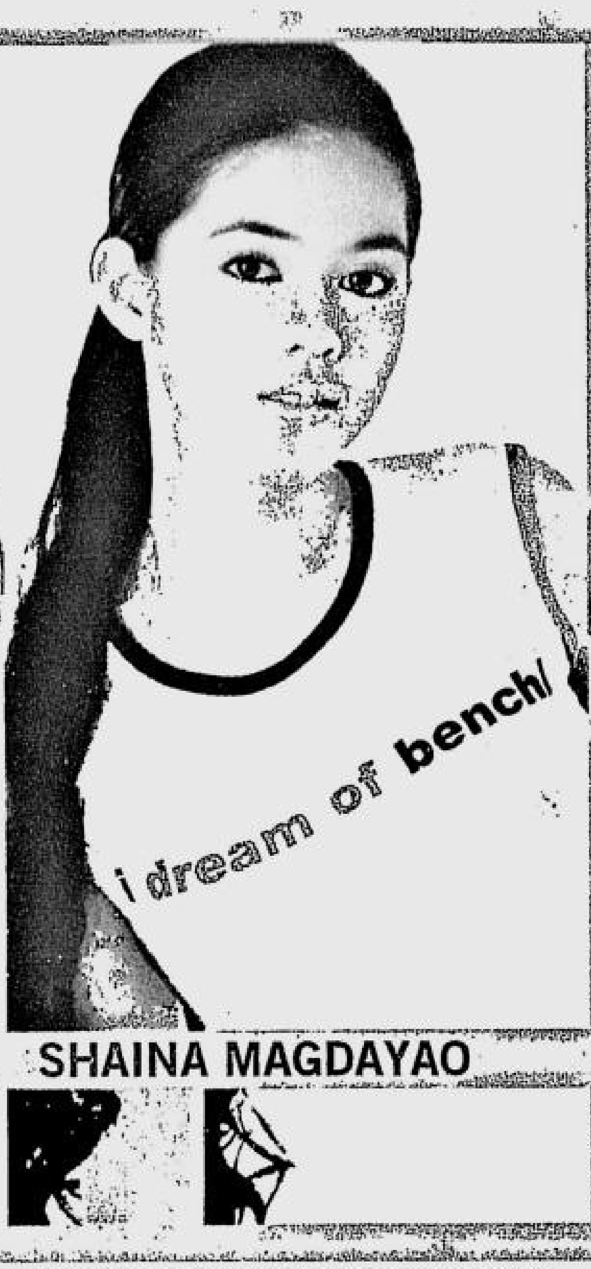
The X-factor is just that: they're just so darn feminine. And it is through what they wear that they give a few hints as to what keeps the girl inside the woman, and the woman inside the girl.

i choose bench

KRISTINE HERMOSA

in love with bench/

LUCY TORRES GOMEZ

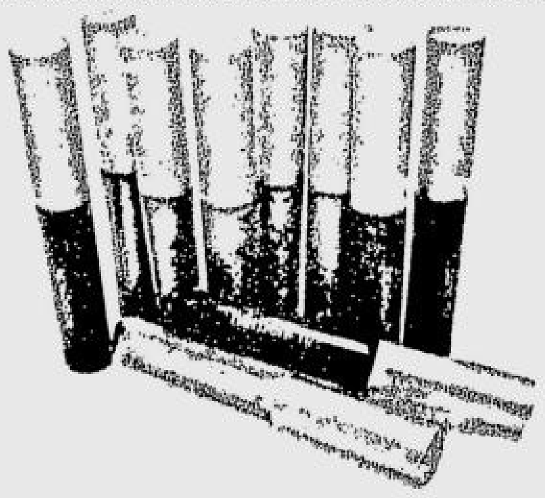


SHAINA MAGDAYAO

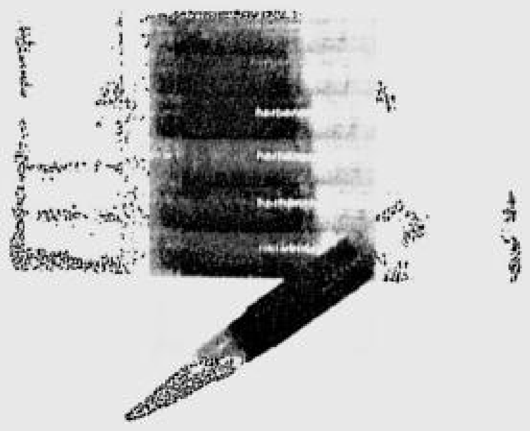
i oooze bench

ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI

	KRISTINE HERMOSA	LUCY TORRES GOMEZ	SHAINA MAGDAYAO	ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HERBENCH PRODUCT?	HerBench jeans!	Of course, the new I-series; mine is the in love with bench/ t-shirt. I love their classic tees-I have them in all colors. Their mesh thongs in solid colors are also my favorite-you can wear them with really low-rise jeans, and the garter never shows. Right now my latest favorite is their lip gloss twist in Ballerina.	I love all HerBench Products especially their make-up line (lipgloss and blush).	Bench underwear!
DESCRIBE YOUR USUAL DAYTIME GETUP.	I like casual clothes-a baby tee, jeans or capri pants, slip-on sandals.	It depends on my mood. I like to look feminine but not froufrou. I usually pair jeans with a pretty top and mules. I love HerBench bootcut low-rise jeans, and I don't think I can ever go back to the high-waist look!	I go for comfort that's why I prefer casual denims, shirts and sneakers.	I'm usually in a white shirt, jeans and sneakers.
THE THING I LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING A GIRL IS...	That you have a lot of choices when it comes to clothes, you can play with clothes and makeup. I love doing makeup on other people-it's one of my passions!	We can dress up anyway we want. And we don't have to court guys. We can sit pretty while they just go for us!	... that I can get away with anything most of the time!...Hehe!	The phrase: ladies first!
WHAT'S YOUR WEIRDEST SHOPPING HABIT?	I can't think of any weird habit. I just love to shop!	When I find something I like, I buy it in all colors.	So far,none yet.....	When I see a product that I really like, I go around the mall first and if I see the same product in another store I usually choose to buy the more expensive one.
WHEN I ENTER A BENCH/HERBENCH BOUTIQUE THE FIRST THING I LOOK FOR IS..	The jeans and then the blouses.	Whenever they have new tops. I love them because they're trendy but reasonably priced.	... casual tops.	I look at the posters of the male models!
WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU REALLY WANT TO WEAR BUT ARE TOO SHY TO?	Nothing! Except maybe for some clothes that are too revealing. Sometimes if I feel uncomfortable with something, I don't wear it at all. You just have to feel confident about what you wear because if you're not, then it wouldn't look good on you.	Miniskirts. It's funny because I used to wear them a lot-like really micro-minis!-in college, but now I just can't. I feel that it draws too much attention to myself.	tube top or dress	Backless shirts, because obviously I can't wear a bra... and I'm so flat-chested.
MY BOYFRIEND / HUSBAND LOVES IT WHEN I WEAR...	I don't have a boyfriend now, but I guess any future boyfriend would love it if I'd wear something that he gave.	Ironically, Richard loves it when I wear miniskirts! So I try to wear them whenever we go out. He also likes it when I wear tailored clothes.	Not applicable! No boyfriend ...	White polo shirt.
IF THERE'S ONLY ONE COSMETIC PRODUCT YOU CAN PUT ON, WHAT WOULD IT BE?	Lipstick (or lip gloss).	Blush, definitely. I'm very fair, so without it I look too pale. The shades I like are orange-y, like peach and apricot.	Lipgloss!	Blusher! It does it all!
I DON'T REALLY LIKE WEARING...	Big and loose clothes or those that don't fit me well.	I cannot, cannot wear grunge! Nor can I wear the rocker chick look. No way!	Long sleeves.	Gowns and dresses
I FEEL MOST FEMININE WHEN...	I'm wearing heels and skirt.	After a long shower and bath. I'm really into bath products, so I love to indulge in baths with super hot water!	I'm wearing skirts and dresses with high heels.	When I'm with my crush or if I see someone that I really like. Siyempre pa-girl diba?!



Kristine's Pick
Kristine likes HerBench original lip gloss to accentuate her sensual lips.



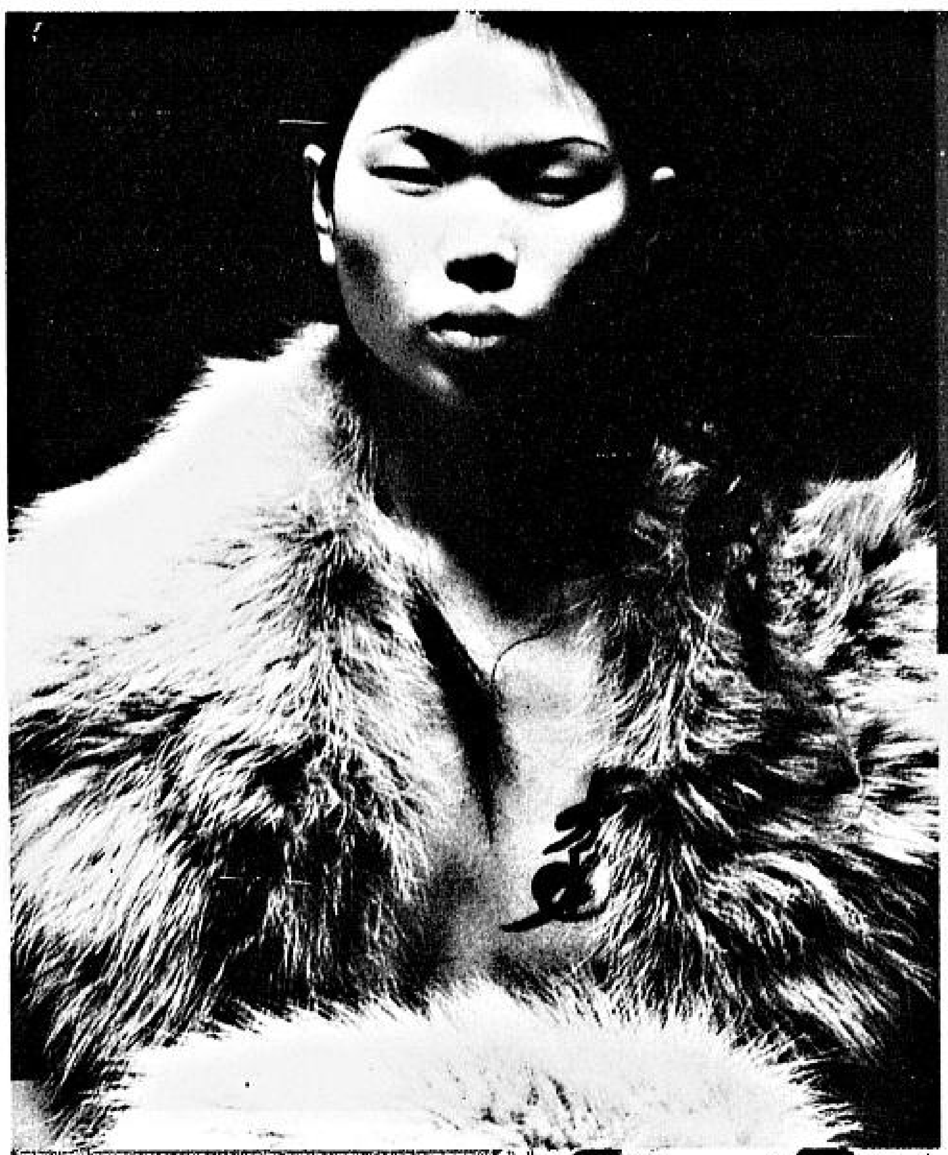
Lucy's Pick
Lucy likes HerBench lip gloss in twist pen for its easy application.

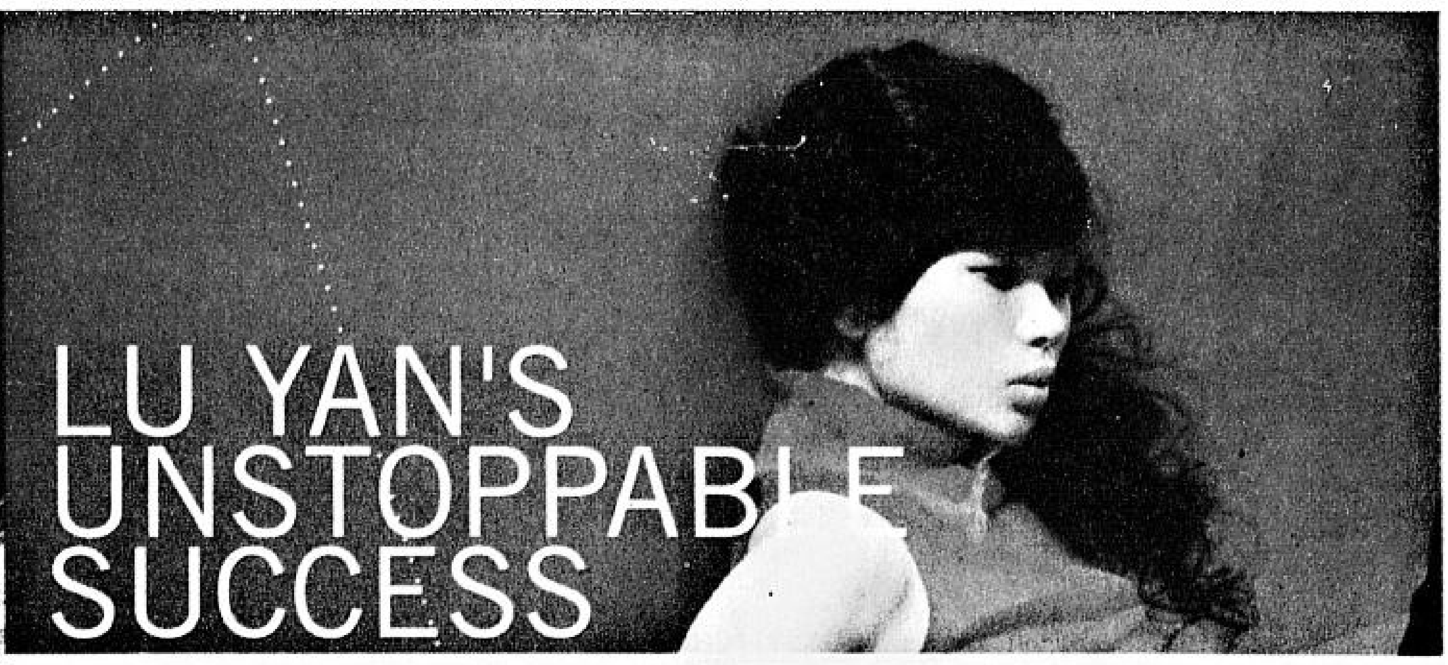
bench/
wildflowers
body spray

Shaina's Pick
Shaina sprays on HerBench wildflowers body spray to keep her feeling fresh this summer.

pretty when pinched

Alessandra's Pick
Alex likes HerBench "Pretty when Pinched" cream blush in red tint for a natural glow.





LU YAN'S UNSTOPPABLE SUCCESS

To think that only a few years ago, she was just a 19-year old girl from a fisherman's town in provincial China, having to eat only eggs-about a hundred of them!-in her first month as an aspiring model in Paris.

Well, just last month, Lu Yan, the Chinese supermodel success story that has become a legend in her own country, graced the Rose Ball, the most glamorous social event in the most glamorous city-state in the world, Monaco, as one of the few special guests from the Republic of China. The theme being Chinese Imperial, Lu Yan lent an exotic presence to the party as she rubbed elbows with Princess Caroline and the heir apparent to Prince Rainier, Prince Albert.

Lu Yan's meteoric rise as the Asian face and body of choice by many of Europe's top fashion houses came as a complete surprise to many of her countrymen. She is not conventionally good-looking-her eyes are practically slits with no folds, her nose is a bit squat, and her lips a tad too bee-stung. Yet put all together, combined with her chutzpah, poise and unmistakable joie de vivre, the 5'10" 22-year old Lu Yan exudes a presence in photographs that grows on you, charms you, and makes you question your previous notions of what is "beautiful" and "pretty."

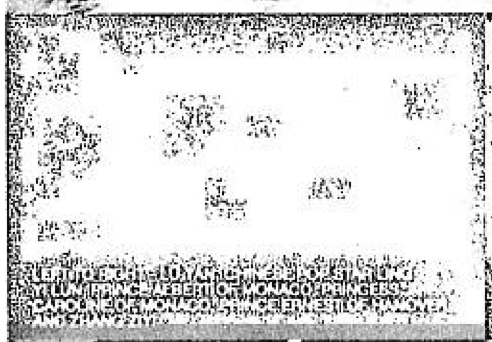
Put simply, Lu Yan is living proof that in today's ever-changing world, beauty no longer belongs to just a certain type, a certain color of skin, certain bust size, or certain ethnicity. She says, "I have my fans, and I will work hard for them and for myself. I don't feel it necessary to please those who dislike me."

And it is this X-factor that has her image on the campaigns of the likes of Christian Dior, Gucci, Lacroix and Hermes, and top magazines like Paris Match, Elle, and Marie Claire.

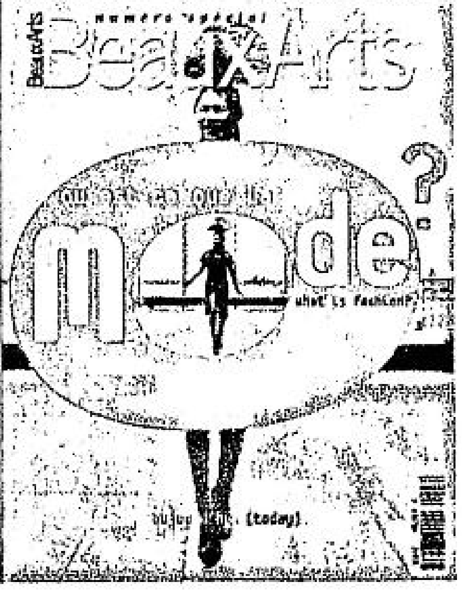
Not to mention, she was snatched up by the ever-vigilant eye of Bench top honcho Ben Chan and now graces the pages of the beautifully photographed Bench Must Have Summer Catalogue 04, a world-class assemblage of international and Filipino talent that brings out the best of Bench and Boracay.

When asked about the secret of her success, the animated Lu Yan simply answers, in pretty good English (she can now speak French as well), "Nothing in the world comes easy, and I don't give up easily either. The most important thing is that I am not afraid of losing. I cherish every opportunity, and always want to give something a try."

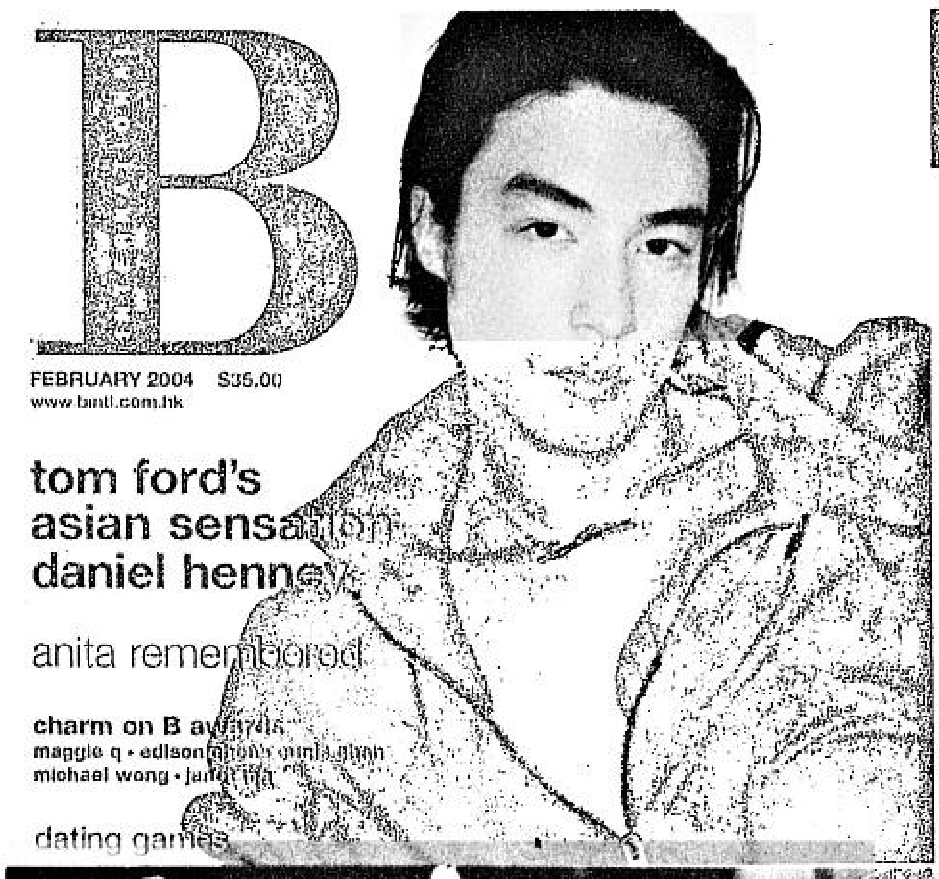
This is why she is now looked up to not just as a model, but a role model in her native Jiangzi province, where her former detractors now uphold her as a great example of hard work and perseverance and belief in oneself, a fairy tale come true. Now that she travels constantly and hobnobs with royals, Lu Yan is pretty much a princess herself.



madame
FIGARO
52 内衣春天
IDEAS FOR LINGERIE



BRITNEY SPEARS:



BEAUTIFUL MAN:
DANIEL HENNEY

There are handsome men, and there are cute men, and there are sexy men. Then, there are beautiful men. And one such man is Daniel Henney.

He was spotted in the Philippines last year, his tanned skin speckled with Boracay's sugary sand, in a Bench tank top and boxer briefs, lazing in a hammock in front of a French photographer.

Later that week, he was seen dancing in one of Malate's hot spots, his superstar Hong Kong girlfriend in his arms, his smile wide and his eyes shining.

And within that year, he was seen, watched and ogled at on the runways of Paris and New York, as the new model of choice of Tom Ford, sporting Gucci, YSL, Giorgio Armani, Ferragamo, and Dolce & Gabbana, among others.

So you see. This beautiful man is the latest Asian sensation in Europe and America, and he was right here in Philippine shores just months before it all began. Smartly enough, he launched his modeling career in Asia (Hong Kong and China) before setting off for Europe and America, where he now lives and works and takes acting lessons. In his free time, he plays with his dog, plays guitar for a rock band and pumps up in the gym everyday.

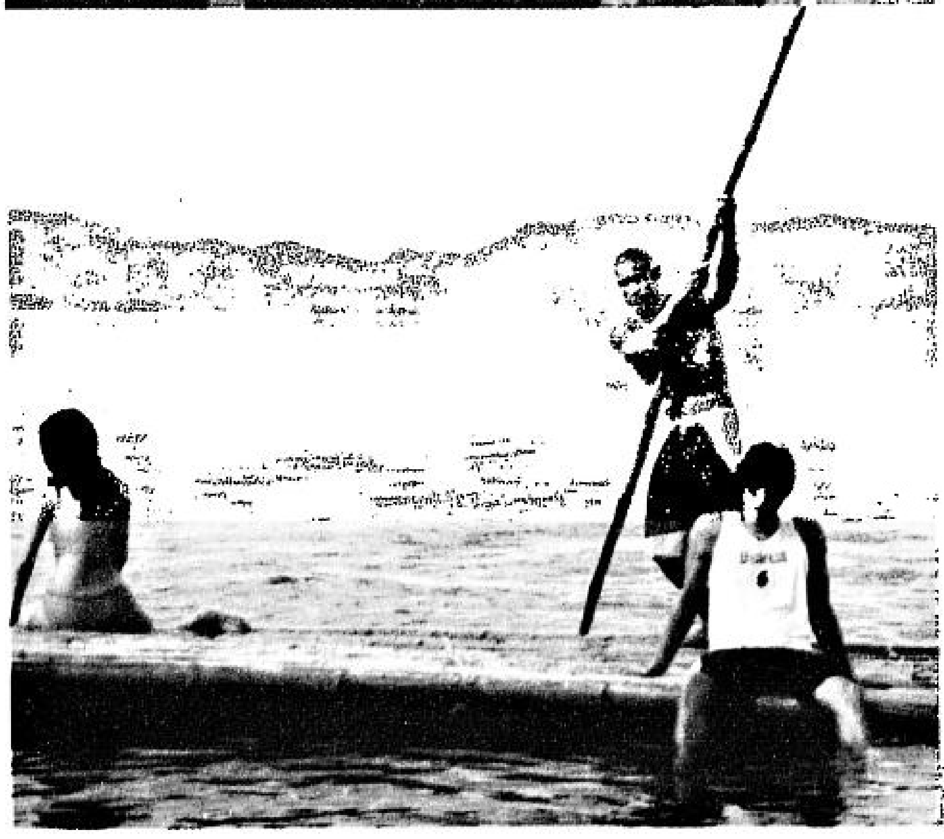
A small town boy born and bred in the United States and of Irish-Korean ethnicity, Daniel Henney personifies the international fashion industry's current obsession with Eurasian exoticism. People who have seen him in the flesh describe his looks as "a heartbreaking mix of sensual, naughty, deep, soulful, sweet, and yes, downright beautiful."

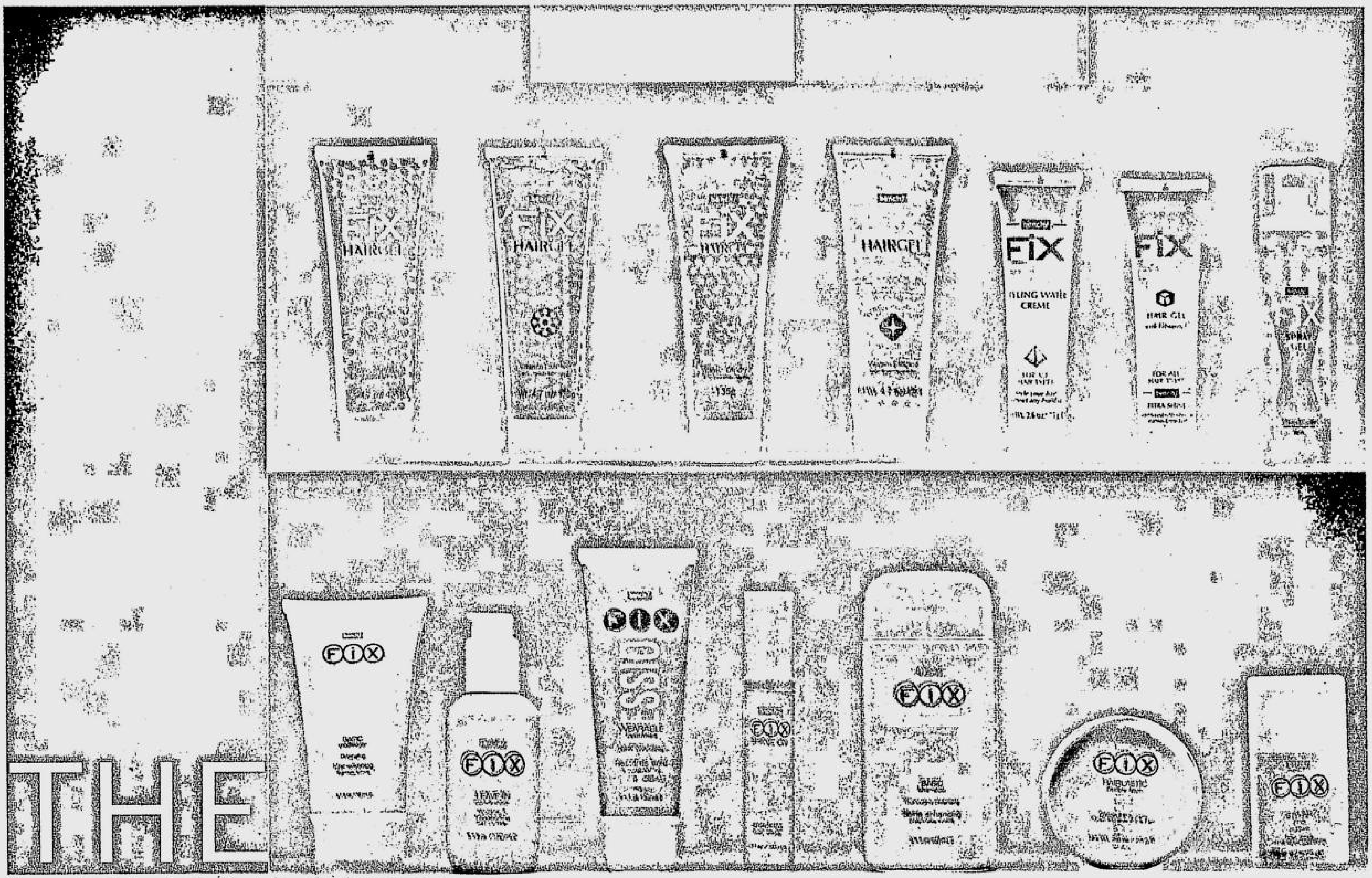
Only 24 years old, Daniel's youthful face is a chameleon of sorts, a photographer's dream come true-his expression can be transformed from pouty dandy to sexy ravager to wholesome boy next door. His lips are full and curvy, his nose long and straight, and his eyes are the most Asian part of him-mysterious, heavy-lidded, secretive.

Standing at about six feet tall, Daniel's physique is lean and athletic but definitely not bulked up. This makes him ideal for sporting the slim silhouette in men's fashion today, and he is a virtual mannequin for underwear campaigns. It is said Tom Ford was so taken by Daniel when the notorious designer first laid eyes on him in Europe, that he was tasked to embody the Gucci look for an exclusive spread for GQ magazine.

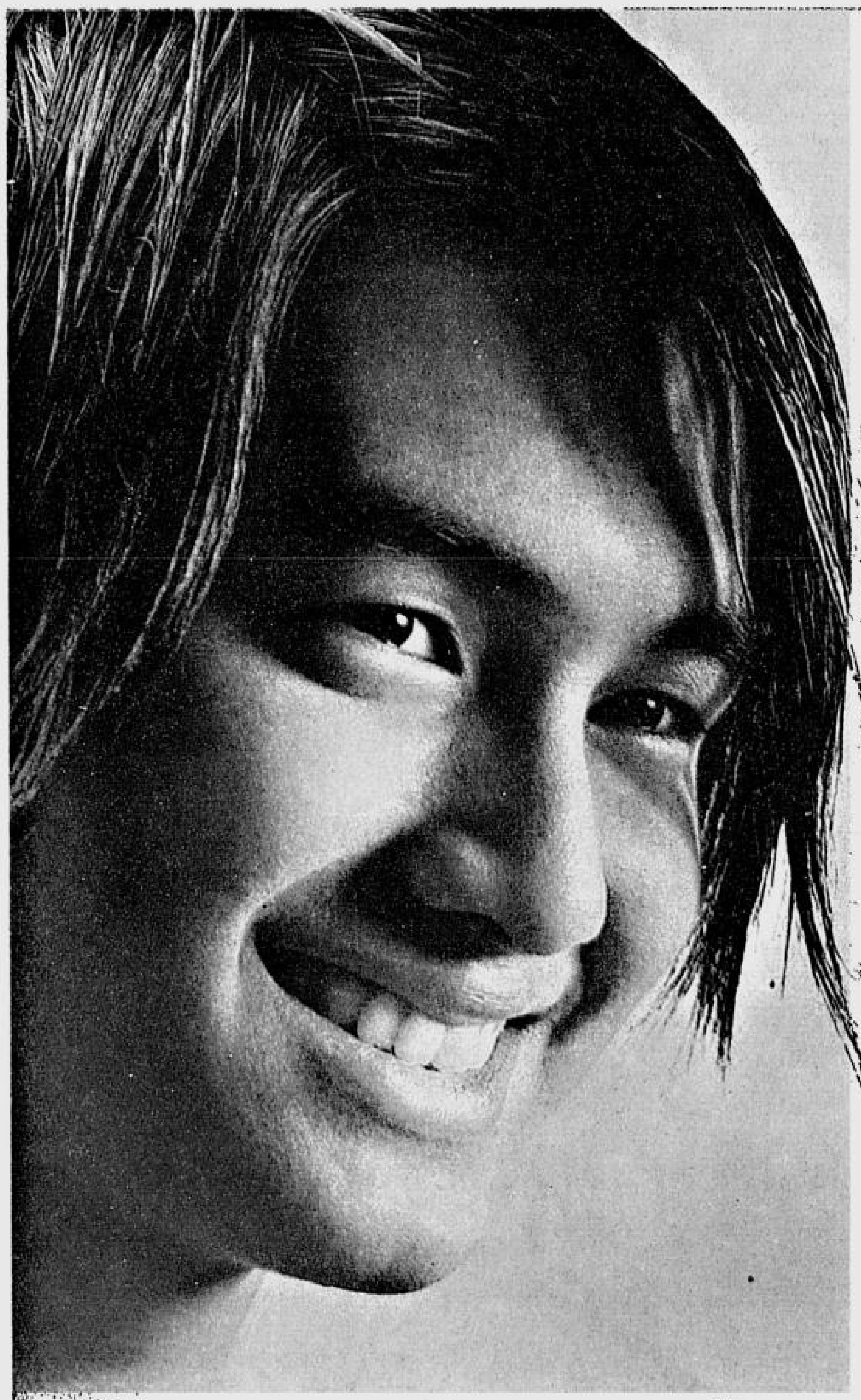
If you missed Darling Daniel Honey Henney, don't fret. His exotic face and bare chest are laid out for you to feast on in the Bench Must Have Summer 04 catalogue, a gorgeously shot panorama of Boracay and Bench as you have never seen them before. Also in the cast are Chinese supermodel Lu Yan and Bench models Jon Hall and Gary Dulatas.

You'll never know. Perhaps Daniel Henney will return to the Philippines again soon, as an actor ... or a rock star ... or again as a Bench model.





THE RIGHT FIX MIX



So much hair, so little time ... or so little hair, so much time ... or so much hair products, so little time! Whatever it may be, your crowning glory is one obsession that can make or break your day. Ergo, we have Fix.

We talked to Kristine Lim, product manager of the incredibly successful-and still growing!-Fix hair product line. Since it started in 1997 with its very first hair gel, Fix has enjoyed phenomenal growth, and has now branched out to its Professional and Salon lines. And to cater to the ever-changing trends in hairstyles among today's youth, Fix has tapped the endorsement of today's hottest young idol, **Rainier Castillo** of Starstruck fame, as Fix hair gel now comes in sachets at P3.00 a pop.

Managing your hair is now an easy fix, as Kristine gave some wonderful tips on how to keep your hair healthy, styled, fragrant and, well, fixed. Here she gives us the right Fix Mix that goes with your hair type, hair style and yes, hairline:

"First, start your day with Fix Professional Shampoo. You can use this with either the Fix Professional Conditioner, or if you don't want your hair to be too weighed down, the Fix Leave-in Conditioner. If you use a lot of products on your hair, Fix Professional Wearable Treatment would be very good for you, and very kind on your hair.

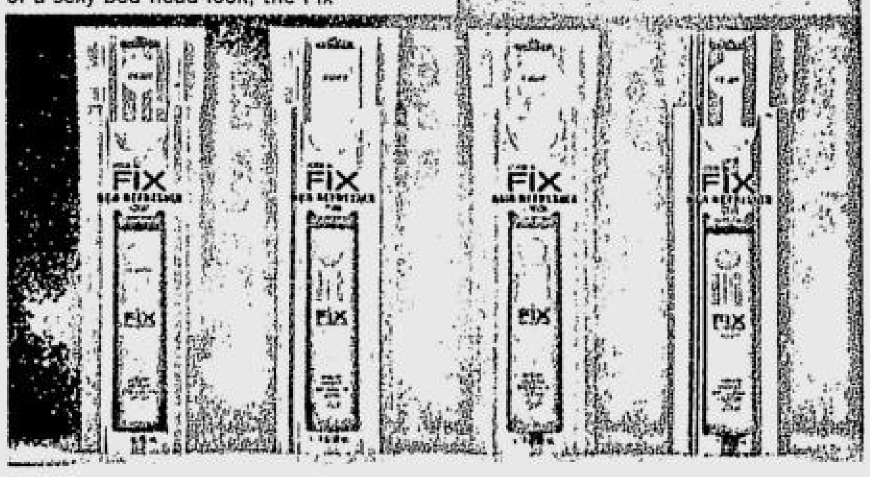
"For that electrifying, electrocuted look, use the Fix Professional Styling Stick-a wonder product that will make your hair stand out ... literally! If you prefer more of a sexy bed-head look, the Fix Professional Hairastic Flexible Fiber can make you feel like you can stretch your hair to whatever style. And if you need to tame those frizzies, spray on some Fix Professional Shine On Anti-Frizz Mist.

"Some would still want the classic gelled look, so there are still the reliable Fix classics like the Strong Hold, Extreme Hold, Extra Shine and Normal Hold gels that now come in sachets.

There's also the Fix Water Creme, an anti-fizz styling product which gives a natural,soft hold."And now, especially in these hot summer months when you don't want your fixed up hair to suddenly droop with the humidity, and your wonderful hair products to melt down your face, there's the new line of I-Fix Hair Refresher sprays that come in four different scents. Spray it on and your hair looks and feels freshly washed instantly."

So have you got your Fix Mix?

MANAGING YOUR HAIR IS NOW AN EASY FIX



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Real lasting wealth

By Marge C. Enriquez

Positive qualities are the best currency of exchange between people

MY FRIENDS and I who are involved either in production or in charities recently exchanged notes on the challenges of getting sponsors and patrons for our projects. Aside from the economic downturn, a lot of money went into the campaign kitty of candidates, leaving small change or nothing in their budget for other concerns.

They favored high-profile events that were either glamorous or entertainment-oriented. Naturally, the arts and organizations doing volunteer work were of little interest to them. Meanwhile, other prospective patrons had already given to charities.

Companies and individuals trashed solicitation letters or simply refused to give us their time—which is just as precious as money. The reason was more than economic: everybody was physically and spiritually depleted, and they didn't want to be drained any further.

Give and receive

For our part, we have taken for granted one of the most vital codes of conduct: to give is to receive. If we want any cooperation from anybody or even from nature, we have to earn it by the strength of our character and by pumping enthusiasm into other people's lives. Before we ask from others, we first have to donate virtues. There's a price for everything that we do, based on the law that what goes around, comes around.

However we are not taught to give and receive, but to take what we can and keep what we get. This habit of accumulation finishes our relationships in all levels and makes people defensive. In justification, we say that since everybody else is in the accumulation mode or taking and keeping, it's probably the right thing to do. No wonder patrons and sponsors complain that they are weary of giving dole-outs because their souls are not empowered by the beneficiaries.

People have forgotten that we are here to nourish our qualities and to be sustained by those qualities. The utmost nourishment is wisdom, because we are giving others the tools to help themselves so they can take charge of their lives. The ultimate wisdom in action is to give without expecting anything in return.

Corny?

Our job is to pass on whatever has come to

REAL/4

WHAT'S INSIDE

MAKEUP artist Patrick Rosas uses smoky eye shadow on *novia* Marta Luque-Araneta. Story on page 2

A FRUITFUL JOURNEY AWAITS YOU

Phineas Fogg captured the imagination of many readers by undertaking one of the most daring adventures of all – going around the world in eighty days. For many travelers, this is the ultimate dream.

Imagine standing in the Coliseum in Rome. Looking up at one of Michaelangelo's greatest masterpieces at the Sistine Chapel. Checking the time with Big Ben. Viewing majestic Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower. Walking a small length of the Great Wall of China. Meditating in the Taj Mahal, Angkor Wat or the temples of Greece. Unlocking the ancient secrets of the Pyramids of Egypt. Or witnessing the breathtaking majesty of the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls.

Of course nowadays, the opportunities for the modern traveler are even more fun and exciting. Rub elbows with royalty at Buckingham Palace. Or see in person some of the biggest international stars in Hollywood. Shop at Rodeo Drive or Milan. Check out cutting edge fashion and technology in Japan. Celebrate carnival in Rio and sample the colorful festivities of Latin America. Surf on the beaches of Hawaii, Tahiti or California. Or see the best art films in Cannes. These are just some of the most sought after travels around the world. To do it all in one grand adventure is almost too good to be true.

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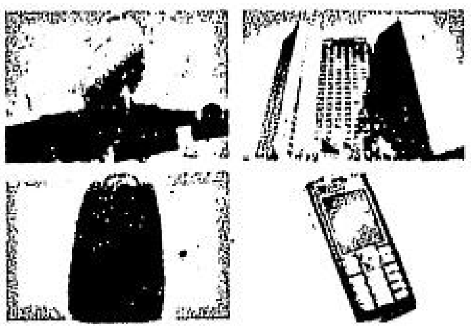

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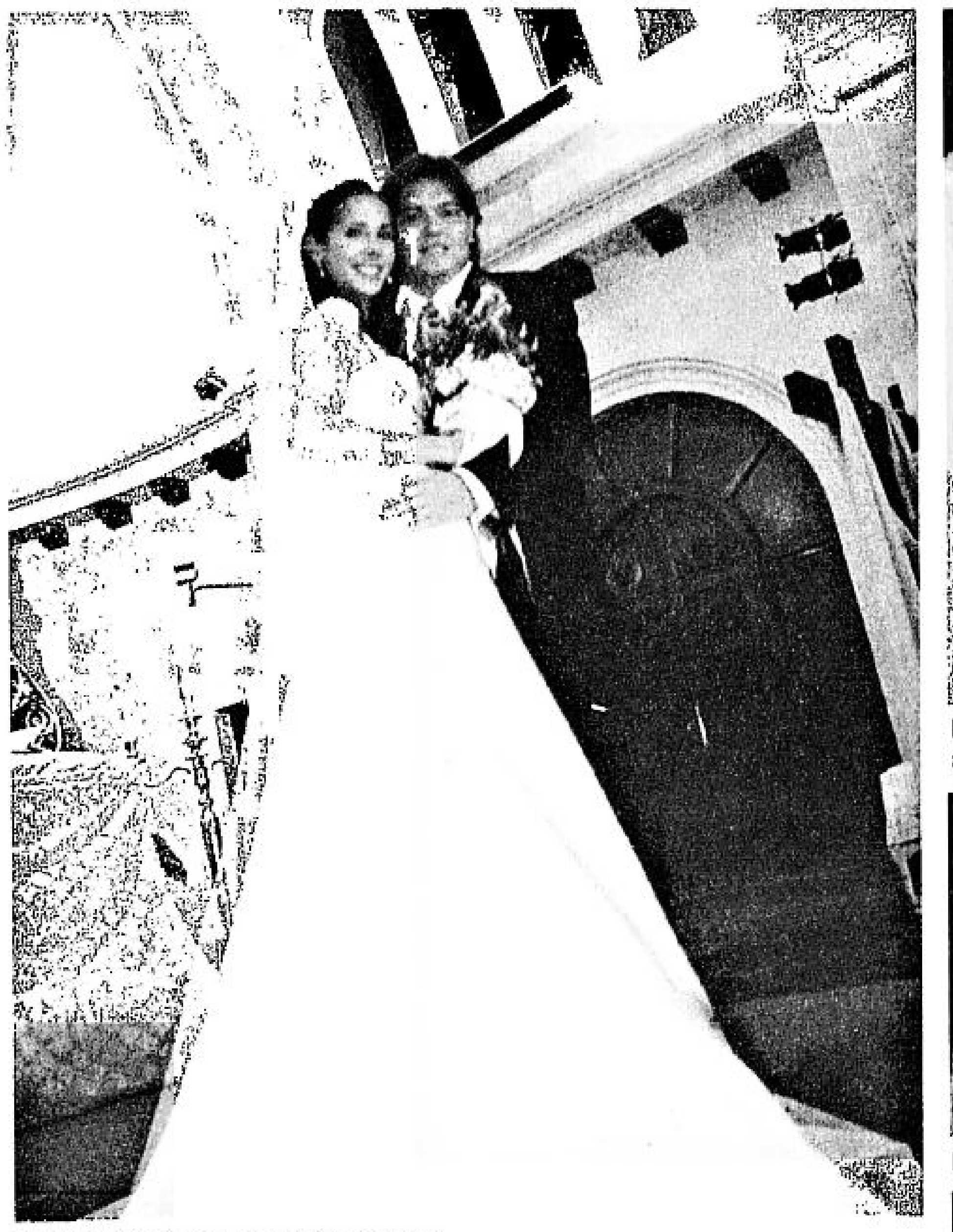
CARLOS and Menchu Soriano

DONG Longa, Christian Lozano, Javy Mantecon and Paqui Gonzalez

MARILOU Senn, Conchita Toda, Anton Roxas and Ane Hagedorn

CONNIE and Linggoy Araneta

MENCHU Mantecon (standing, left), Ana Tuason, Tina Vazquez Prada and Kat Abad


NEWLYWEDS Marta and Dino Araneta

MICHAEL Deakin (standing, left), Karla Delgado and Leon Araneta

CHICHING Tuason and Conkoy Tuason

FRANCISCO Araneta and Dino's grandmother, Margarita Araneta

MONICA Araneta and Girlie Dayrit

QUITO Moras

BETTINA Aboitiz, Cisco Araneta, Frankie Araneta, Cristina Tuason, Liza Tuason and Bito Mantecon

CHARI Aboitiz

MARTY Gonzalez, Zane Fansler, Bianca Zobel and Juan Elizalde. (Behind) Amaya Baretto and Javy Legarda

CONCHITINA Ladao (left), Marilou Gonzalez, Menchita Romulo, Chuchay Tuason

PILAR TUASON

JOSEPH Stevens, Martita Tuason (mother of the bride) and Cristina Luque (bride's grandma)

JOE and Rosanna Fores

PILAR TUASON

MILANA and Luis Luque (father of the bride)

JOEY Cuisa, Ditos Carballo and Cesar Buenaventura

MARISA Rocha

MARTIN Garcia

JOHNNY Velasquez, Doody Tuason

MARILEN Elizalde

MERCY Tuason, Johnny Litton and Nene Quimson

PHILIP Hagedorn, Martin and Missy Camahort

COCO Garcia, J J Poe, Trinchi Floro, Cardo Garcia, Paolo Araneta, Mumph Ruiz

When an Araneta weds

Photos by August dela Cruz

Several generations of the country's Who's Who turned up for the stylish gathering

WOMEN in luxurious gowns and in fine jewelry and men in *barong tagalogs* and designer suits conversed in Spanish as they waited for the bride at Santuario de San Antonio. Some 700 guests, consisting of several generations of the country's Who's Who, had turned up. With a largely *mestizo* circle toting their invitations written in Spanish, an observer remarked that it looked like a scene from a *telenovela*. *"Que expectaculo! Parece una escena de una telenovela."*

Weddings in the Araneta family are always done in high style. Matriarch **Connie Gonzalez**, wife of **Carlos Araneta**, chair of the LBC Group of Companies, coordinated with the **Bride's Maids**, floral designer **Antonio Garcia** of Mabolo and caterer **La Tasca**. Last Saturday, they organized the *gran boda* of the youngest son **Fernando "Dino" Araneta**, vice-president of LBC Development, and **Marta Cristina Luque**, a student at De La Salle University.

The couple met 18 months ago through Dino's best friend, the late **Christopher Tuason.** Dino had just ended a relationship and Marta had just arrived from Spain. When Christopher hooked up Dino, 28, with his cousin Marta, 24, the two immediately hit it off.

The bride and the mother of the groom wore gowns by **Monique Lhuillier.** Marta's friend, **Katrina Tantoco,** designed the aubergine gowns of the entourage. The groom wore Hugo Boss. Marta's parents, **Luis Luque** and **Martita Tuason,** flew to Manila for the event.

The *madrinas*, clad in silvery colors, were former beauty queen **Chuchay Tuason, Conchitina Ladao, Marisa Rocha, Marilou Gonzalez, Menchita Romulo. The** *padrinos* **were—Francisco Luque, Iking Araneta, Carlos Tuason, Tito Mora and Chiqui Gonzalez.**

Dino's lengthy promise of love complemented Marta's short but witty rejoinder. Highlight of the ceremony was the newlyweds' *beso apasionado* at the end, that had younger *convidados* cheering. Makeup artist **Patrick Rosas** had to freshen up the bride's makeup.

As in all Araneta weddings, the reception was held at the family home across the street. The newlyweds and the *invitados* walked over. The steel fence on McKinley Road was opened, with permission from the homeowners' association. The security guards were helpful in facilitating the flow of human traffic. From the church to the house, there were lights, a sound system and a band playing the couple's favorite music. Guests were awed by the torch-lined driveway. They were offered sorbet-based tropical drinks spiked with rhum and vodka.

The tropical theme of the wedding reflected the couple's love of the beach. The trees in the lawn were festooned with colorful lights and representations of giant mollusks. The buffet tables were decked with rattan balls by **Ernest Santiago,** fruits and tropical flowers. Cured and pungent cheeses were garnished with grapes, nuts and olives. Poached shrimps, tuna tarter and salmon were served amid ice sculptures. There was a cornucopia of *tapas*, ranging from cold cuts to *fabadas*, Chilean sea bass, rib eye and leg of lamb. The buffet table offered several kinds of pastas and *paellas* and salads. Desserts were crepes, stuffed dates and petit fours.

The simplest table gave way to the *tarta de boda* by **Marta Matute.** The centerpiece on the head table was an explosion of orchids. Blowers in the garden kept guests cool, and a video wall was installed on one side of the garden.

As the guests savored the feast, **Nonoy Lopez's** Band performed Latin soul. The program was simple. After the speeches, the singletons ran to the stage to catch the bride's *ramo de flores*. Dino's cousin, model **Bianca Araneta,** caught the flowers. **Cardo Garcia** got the garter. Entertainment followed with music for baby boomers as interpreted by the **Spirit of '67**, and for the Gen X'ers, it was the **Hyper Beat.**

"*Se celebra con pompa y lujo* (Celebrated with pomp and glamor)," remarked a guest.

"*La anfitriona atendiò a todos los pequeños detalles* (The hostess paid attention to little details)," said another.

Dino and Marta Araneta are now continuing the tropical experience in Seychelles and South Africa.

Marge C. Enriquez

CHIQUI Gonzalez, Willy Villareal

RAUL Manzano, Maurice Arcache

MICHEL and Amparito Lhuillier

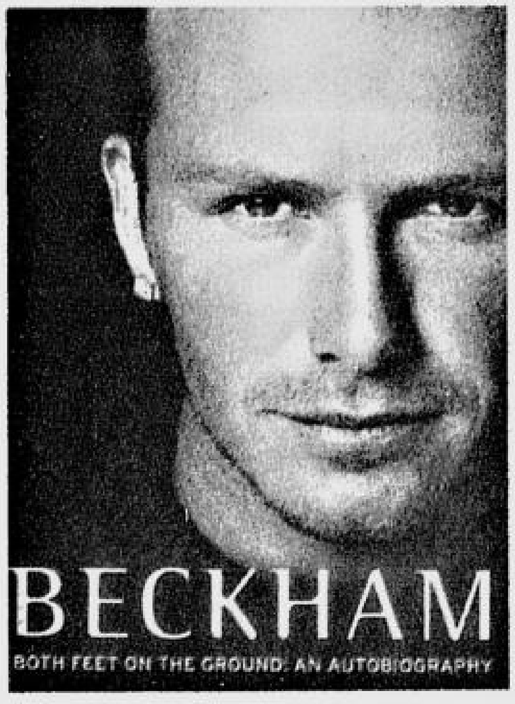
BOOK REVIEW

On Beckham, by Beckham

It feels like having tea with the soccer great and listening to his chatter

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Beckham: Both Feet on the Ground
An Autobiography
By David Beckham, in collaboration with Tom Watt
Harper Collins, October 2003



EXCEPT for getting caught up in the excitement of the World Cup, I'm no big soccer fan. I don't know much about the game, but I do know who David Beckham is. Who doesn't? As an athlete, he is as popular as Michael Jordan. His prodigious talent and boyish good looks have helped make him a household name all over the world.

Marrying "Posh Spice" just added to the his allure. They are considered England's other Royal Family and their house has been nicknamed "Beckingham Palace." Apart from that, all I know about him is that he's inspired the title of a movie ("Bend It like Beckham"), and his family grabbed the headlines at one point because of a grave kidnap threat.

I was not looking forward to reading 400 plus pages about his life. Now that I have, though, I cannot get enough of David Beckham. I find myself checking out the sports channels to see if there are any soccer games on.

"Beckham: Both Feet on the Ground" starts out slow. So much rattling on about soccer would make anyone but the staunchest fan completely lost. Everything he narrates at the beginning is completely foreign to me. But as I read on, another side of Beckham begins to surface—a sweet, honest, and vulnerable side. He endears himself slowly to me, getting under my skin—which is more than I can say for a lot of writers out there.

Of course one cannot imagine David Beckham sitting in front of his computer typing away in perfectly fluent prose. I suspect that Tom Watt did most of the writing while Beckham rattled on into a tape recorder. Having said that, I must concede that the result is a very entertaining and readable book about an extraordinary life. I think the genuine sense of intimacy is what makes it so engaging.

Plus and minuses

Of course I don't think there is anything left to be written about him. Mostly, the book is a history of his training and playing—subjects he delves into with much detail. Other phases of his life he merely skims through. Hardcore fans looking for the inside scoop will be disappointed. But the unanointed, like myself, will yearn for more.

I must admit that just reading his autobiography made me fall in love with Beckham. It seriously feels like having tea with him and listening to his chatter. Even his rambling on about how much he loves his wife and family is appealing.

On the other hand, what makes the book so great could also be what's wrong with it. It lacks the drama one expects from an autobiography. One senses that Beckham is trying too hard not to alienate anyone, and events like a fight with Manchester United's boss, Alex Ferguson, seem to have been downplayed.

Released with the title "My Side" in the United Kingdom, the book is also apparently a chance for Beckham to set some records straight. He explains the infamous France '98 World Cup incident which he figured in, and which resulted in him being so reviled by his countrymen, that they burned his effigy. He goes out of his way to explain an infamous picture of him giving the finger to the fans. He says the expletives being hurled at him at the time were intolerable.

Best parts

For me the best parts of the book are those that talk about Victoria—how they met, and how intensely they feel for each other. It's always good to learn that famous people want the same things that normal people do. I enjoyed reading about their courtship and how they both cried throughout their wedding ceremony. Critics may say this book is a public relations move to paint Beckham as a boy-next-door type who can do no wrong. If that is the case, it has succeeded.

There are bits and pieces that give glimpses of the real David Beckham but the writing is often so guarded, it is apparent that the reader is being given only what he is meant to know. Most of the book follows Beckham's rise to become one of the great athletes of our generation, and it ends with his eventual sale to Real Madrid.

This autobiography seems a little premature, considering that Beckham still has a whole life ahead of him. Nevertheless, "Both Feet on the Ground" is a good read. It probably won't win a Pulitzer Prize, but the writing is earnest and open, and this alone keeps the reader turning the pages. The photographs of this great-looking man, dished out generously, are not too bad, either.

Multi-faceted Muse

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

Makeup artist Patrick Rosas and photographer Raymund Isaac coax out the essential, the mystery waiting to be unraveled

IT IS a fascinating experience, leafing through makeup expert Patrick Rosas' sleek book entitled "Muse."

Except for a brief foreword by Vicky Zubiri who bravely confesses she "rarely uses makeup artists," and a one-page insert from the general manager of a skin-care brand that sponsored the book launch, the "text" consists of photographs of women's faces "made up or "re-invented" by Rosas.

Patrick Rosas is most creative when he does not impose preconceived images on his female subject but instead teases out her essence, a mystery just waiting to be unraveled.

Isn't concerning oneself with a face dealing with a façade, a surface, a superficial front? And isn't beauty only skin-deep? Spontaneously, we objectify the faces we meet. One is baby-faced, another is angel-faced; that one possesses a face "only a mother can love", still another, a face that can "launch a thousand ships." If one goes beyond this labeling, a face can reveal the depth of a person. It can bare someone's soul.

Capturing the ephemeral

Rosas playfully connives with photographer Raymund Isaac in coaxing their Muse to "de-pose"—to "pose" with all the honesty and nonchalance she can muster. Together, they capture the poignant beauty of the ephemeral.

They ignore identities on the outset and simply respond to the immediate appeal of their subjects' faces. The ingénue appeal of Raya Mananquil, the sultriness of Angel Aquino, the pure sensuality of Marge Enriquez, the austere elegance of Margarita Fores, the sparkling beauty of Lorraine Belmonte, and the mystical charm of the Zobels and the Delgados struck me most strongly.

RAYMUND Isaac

It is a pity that the book's layout is dictated by the subjects' status and name. Why did the more socially prominent and politically powerful receive more space than the more interesting photos of the low-key women? It would have been the height of the editorial team's nonchalance to take the many faces of the Muse at face value!

Email the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu.

PATRICK Rosas (third from left) with muse Bianca Zobel, and teammates Marla Suang and Christian David

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The big bust

Talk about wonder cups that gave me total breast confidence

By Ana A.S. Bitong
Contributor

NOT a day passes when I don't think about my breasts—for a great number of reasons. When it's cold they know it before I do. This is everybody's experience, I suppose. When it's hot, the cleavage becomes some sort of a mini waterfall or sweat stream. In unfamiliar territory, they are the first things we protect.

There is also the constant fear of the "Big C," making us grope for lumps everyday. But lately, I merely just stare at them and wonder what happened to their perky personality? Gasp!

I had no difficulty during my pubescent years coping with these twin mountains growing on my chest. I guess this was due to the fact that they were really more of humps. At least they were upright and always standing and were just sort of... hanging around. And just as I was in the middle of panic and checking my calendar for a two-week break for a breast miracle surgery, something landed at my doorstep.

Firm up, enlarge

The Athena Cups. On the box is a picture of a woman with luscious, well-shaped breasts. Angrily, I ripped open the box and out tumbled a pair of breast moulds. Upon closer inspection, it seemed like they were reversible, with one side glossy.

Apparently these Athenas apply Japanese technology to re-shape and firm distorted breasts (bad word). The absorption force of the cup can pull scattered fats around the breasts inward. Also, blood circulation in the area is increased, thus increasing the protein absorption, resulting in firmly shaped enlarged breasts.

On top of this, using Athena Cups during ovulation can lead to the accumulation of estrogen around the breasts, enhancing the galactophore's function, which further aides in the firming and enlarging the breasts. So basically it means no drugs, no surgery, no injections, no side effects.

I attached the glossy part of the Athena Cups to my breasts for 10 to 15 minutes on the first three days of usage, increasing to 20 to 30 minutes per day on the next three days, and up to 45 to 60 minutes per day during the second week. The maximum is two hours per day on the third week onwards.

Not easy, girl

I tried it for six weeks and it was a lot harder than I thought. You can't do much while they're on, so best to do it at night while you're reading a book or vegging out in front of the TV. Too many movements cause the cups to lose their hold and eventually fall, then you would have to start all over again. Still, it costs only 10 percent of the price of breast surgery, so I persevered. I felt a slight tightening of the breasts, which meant it was working but quite uncomfortable.

In the first two weeks, I already noticed a change but I figured it was just wishful thinking—until the fourth week when I put on a swimsuit which I never filled out properly (it didn't have any of those wonder wires or slightly padded miracles) but I use it for swimming with my son so as not to overuse my other more appealing bikinis.

For a moment I thought I inserted imaginary pads! My breasts were... proud! I had improved breasts and, more important, a resurrected bikini. I went on overdrive trying on top after top that I had buried deep in my closet due to their BLS (Breasts Look Saggy) classification. They were about to be reclassified.

These cups have given me, total breast confidence! My cup size has not changed, though. This could be because, admittedly, I like the about-to-burst-out-of-the-bra look. But that's just me.

Contact: 0917-5330759 or 374-7011 to 13

Spreading the gospel

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

RP's chocolate lovers wow top execs of Belgium's popular confiserie

JAN Van Cleemput has one of the best jobs in the world. As head of Asian marketing operations for the century-old Confiserie Leonidas, he gets to travel to the region's most dynamic cities. And he does so while spreading the gospel of chocolate according to that century-old Belgian company that claims, simply, to make the best cocoa confections in the world.

Van Cleemput and marketing manager Annick Van Overstraeten visited Manila as part of their latest tour of key Asian markets. Both were very pleased with the progress of the Leonidas brand in the Philippine metropolis, owing largely to the enthusiasm of local partner Vanessa Figeroa. The first shop was opened in Glorietta 4 last August, and now Leonidas boasts of nine outlets in Metro Manila. If plans don't miscarry, the next few months will see the sweet offerings in Baguio and Cebu cities as well.

As the two Leonidas executives tell it, they are very pleased with the initial success, but not totally surprised. Market studies have long pointed to the Philippines as a good potential market for the company, given its high consumption rate—second only to Japan in all of Asia—of confections. "Leonidas entered Japan just five years ago, but our growth there has been very quick," Van Cleemput says. The brand has 20 shops in prime locations around Japan now, and 40 additional kiosks sprout around the big cities in the peak period of December to February.

They hope to duplicate their strong showing in Japan here in the Philippines while bearing in mind, of course, that while the love of chocolates is universal, each market has its own quirks. Van Overstraeten notes that in Belgium, where Leonidas has over 300 branches, the products are sold in dedicated street shops, much akin to neighborhood bakeries. A key feature is an open side window that allows pedestrians to quickly purchase, or merely appreciate the sight and smell of freshly made chocolates.

Young crowd

While the street shop concept was easily duplicated in Japan, Leonidas allowed Figeroa to take a different tack in introducing the brand to Filipinos. She set up kiosks in the busiest malls around the metropolis, to great effect. "In a way the result was the same as having a street shop in Europe, because the consumer would literally bump into our chocolates," Van Cleemput says. "Ours is not a franchise system as you know it. We give our partners a lot of leeway."

He explains further: "Essentially the aim of our brand is to get the product as near to the buyer as possible; with the fewest barriers. We want customers to feel free to look, choose what they want, and ask questions." He was pleased to see during his rounds of Manila stores that students would walk up and buy even just one or two pieces at a time.

"I am so glad that Leonidas appeals to the young crowd here," he says, adding that even in Japan, a lot of teenage women buy chocolates for themselves. This is the same scenario in Europe. "Our clients buy mostly for themselves. They just have to eat it! Other brands have an older clientele, who may buy one or two boxes for gifts, and that's the day's sale right there. We have a lot of traffic in and out of our stores; people are always coming and going."

Leonidas has perfected a flexible production and transport system that guarantees the freshness of products even halfway around the world. "The average time from when we get an order to delivery is four days," Van Cleemput reveals. All the products are made in Belgium and then flown to various markets. "We have received many requests to extend shelf life, but that's not how we approach the business," he states flatly.

For most of its history, Leonidas was a family-run company, with a fiercely-held tradition of excellence. Thus, while management has been turned over to a professional group, it remains anathema for the company to scrimp on ingredients, much less cut corners in terms of production. Instead, it goes to great lengths to ensure that the experience of biting into a piece of Leonidas chocolate is the same for a buyer in Manila as it would be for someone in Belgium.

BELGIAN Ambassador Christian Tonghe and Mrs. Annick Van Overstraeten (Leonidas VP for marketing and sales)

GILDA Figueroa and Jan Van Leempeet, export director US/Asia Pacific

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Sugar-free choices

Leonidas is also unique in that it is embarking on propagating its name via key partnerships in overseas markets. "In a way, we're in a league of our own. For instance, Godiva was based in Belgium until it sold out to a large US corporation. Back in Europe, there are many chocolate makers, but they stay small and service only their local markets. No one has the same profile (as ours)," Van Cleemput says.

The two executives see the potential for further growth here, not just on account of the new outlets, but also in terms of new product offerings. For instance, Van Cleemput notes that as a percentage of sales, the sugar-free line seems to be more popular here than in Europe, and new variants may be in the works soon. Van Overstraeten, meanwhile, reveals that Leonidas has been test-marketing a line of chocolate ice cream in its home market of Belgium, which may find its way to tropical Manila shortly.

Real lasting wealth

From page 1

us, resulting in a network of relationships that presents openings for growth. Relationship is the giving and receiving of energy. When the energy of exchange carries generosity of spirit or is simply positive in quality, then our relationships are in harmony. And when we need any cooperation, it will just come naturally.

While most people believe money is the highest and most important form of wealth, in reality, the highest and most precious resource are our qualities. This takes many forms and our relationships create the situations to shape and give our richest resource to each other—love, peace, truth, happiness and purity. Once discovered, all relationships become opportunities to creatively shape and share those energies in the most appropriate way.

The above-mentioned words may sound corny. But believe me, relationship problems usually mean only that some of these virtues are missing in us.

An essential trait in leadership, love is to the soul what water is to the body. Most subordinates expect love from their leader in the form of compassion, acceptance of their strengths and weaknesses, appreciation and caring. Love connects you with the energy of the person or the flow of the situation. Lack of love leads to controlling others and barriers go up.

Truth, peace, purity

Truth is a quality that helps us keep to the straight facts, setting aside emotions that tend to blur them. Peace means speaking less, softly and sweetly. Happiness is being content in any situation and free from any complaint. Purity means thinking and doing something without any hidden agenda, selfish or egoistic motive.

I have gone through countless humiliating experiences for being careless about these traits. To this day, I still get flak for my shortcomings. Hey, it takes time to erase a lifetime of bad habits.

But when positive qualities are strengthened, they become the best currency of exchange between people. There are two dynamics in the bank account of the soul. First, the giver is the first to experience the energy on the way out. Second, the energy must return at different levels.

Expect nothing

The adage goes, "Expect nothing in return and then watch the universe build a camp at our feet."

This is the essence of leadership. When we make the effort to change—and give ourselves some allowances for occasional lapses—others will notice there's something special about us or our work, and they will actually spend time with us. When they are touched by the power of our sincerity, cooperation of any kind becomes voluntary.

This was what I shared with friends in the little gathering at the residence of environmentalist **Belen Rosario King** in Forbes Park. Instead of dancing and passing the hat for my forthcoming performance art concert, it was more like a monologue in an acting workshop, connecting with the guests as my scene partner.

I shared insights on how values were the real currency for wealth. The past shows were made possible with the cooperation of many people. Regular supporters have considered it part of their tithing because these concerts espouse values for the 21st century. They help not because of me, but because they want to create good karma.

Since I started doing my concerts in 1997, Le Soufflé has been providing the vegetarian cocktails. I told chef **Josephine Sincioco** that the restaurant has stayed prosperous even in hard times because of her single-mindedness and purity which, according to law, attracts wealth.

Of course, I had to practice what I preached. In that function, there were no solicitation letters or even any hard sell of the forthcoming event. What was more important was the warm swap with the guests who made the effort to come despite their hectic schedules. They paid me through their time and attention, in exchange for a little shake-up in their soul.

A friend to all and none

BE A friend to everyone and a friend to no one. Such is the paradoxical ethic of a journalist. One needs the network to source good stories, yet the journalist must be detached from his or her connections to write objectively. When there is fraternization in the field, the journalist can lose sight of what he or she is covering.

I recall that up until the late 1980s, reporters were always being reshuffled to different beats as they were getting too familiar with their news sources. It can also happen in the "soft news" circle, be it fashion or entertaintment.

Since ÉLAN's last issue, I have been attending fashion shows just to give moral support to the organizers and some designer-friends. But that doesn't guarantee a gushing write-up.

At the Tatler's launch of Couture magazine, Rustan's presented its designer collection. I forgot about the clothes: I enjoyed ogling at the gorgeous male models especially when they took their shirts off.

Nothing new

Selecting randomly, I went to the repeat of the **Gerry Katigbak, Anthony Nocom, Bobby Novenario** and **Ben Farrales** show at Glorietta and the Sony Ericcson night of New Generation Designers.

A dear friend coaxed me into attending the launch of Unilever's new skin whitening line that presented **Inno Sotto**'s preview collection.

Just as in the international scene, the numbers weren't anything new. Katigbak's Oriental-inspired collection—androgynous shapes and laces—were predictable to a jaded fashion watcher. Ferrales' clothes belonged to a different era and attitude, to put it nicely. However, they were beautifully made. His *terno* caught my eye. Although the design was too busy for my taste, I admired the perfection of his butterfly sleeves and the well-cut necklines.

As for the New Generation designers, the only thing I remember are lumps and bumps.

What's up, Inno?

I had mixed feelings about Sotto's collection. He presented his trademark styles: the trapeze or opera coats, the Chanel-inspired frayed suits, yards of corded ribbons and bias strips and frothy patchwork. There were references to the '50s era such as the drapes and the multi-tiered cowl-draped skirt.

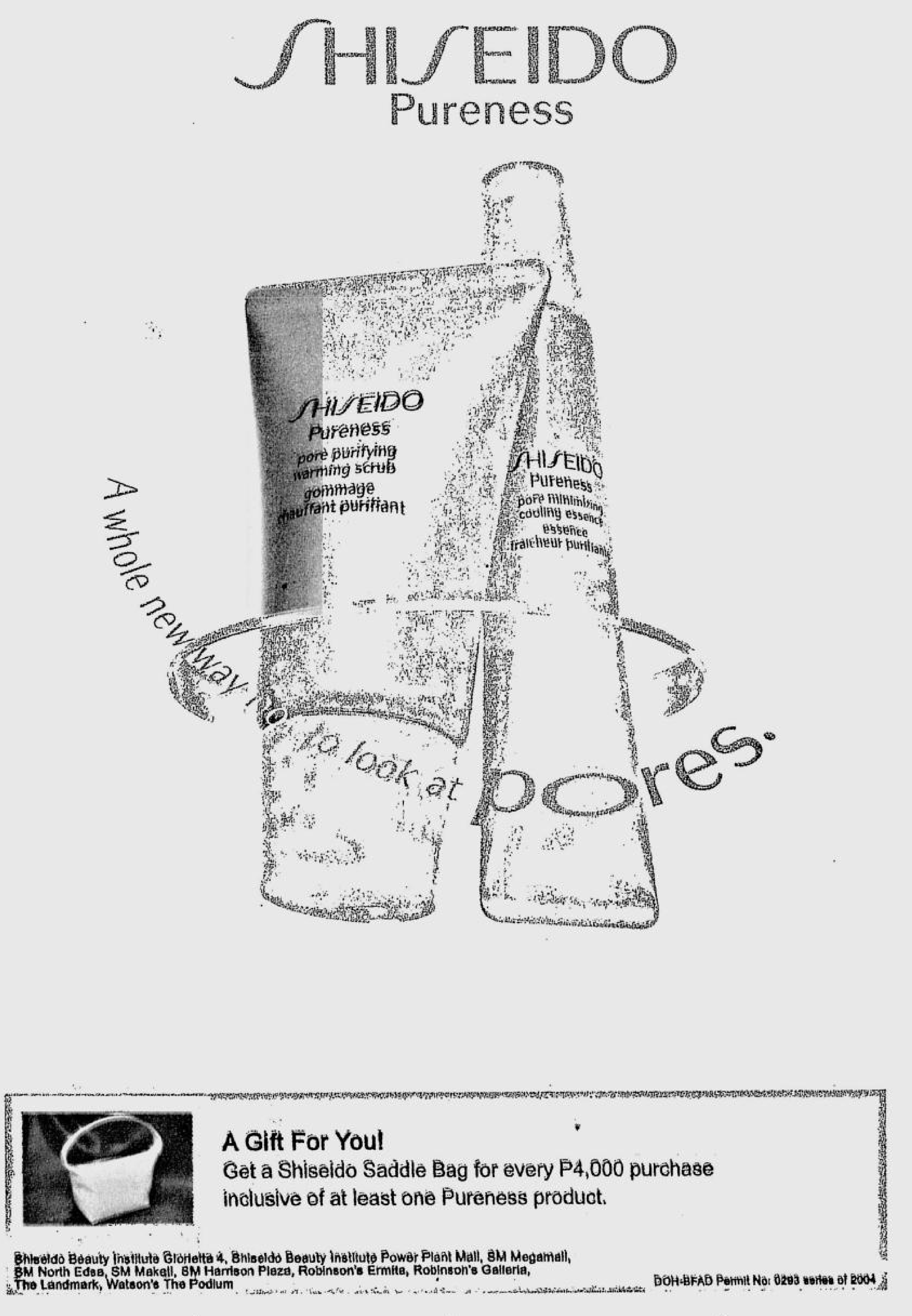
Sotto is a master in staging. Predictably, the *fashionistas* around me were awed by the drama of his collection. Any artist knows, whether in dance, literature, music or fashion, that the tiny details spell the difference between mediocre and pro.

I was bothered by the Chanel-inspired suits. Knowing Sotto, he would choose a fabric to suit the weather. Nonetheless they looked weighed down and the frays were twisty. I found the embellishments—the fish-scale *paillettes* and the pompoms—jarring. After the show I kept wondering, what relevance was the frayed tweed with pompons and beads in Manila? I can't imagine **Kris Aquino** wearing the frayed suits with beads and pompons in "The Buzz."

Clothes like these require precision in construction. It would be technical to explain the use or misuse of the fabric, sewing and cutting technique or lack of it that made some models look out of proportion. Maybe Inno should cut the back of the bodice on the bias for better fit. For humid-weather dressing, the fall of the clothes looked heavy. Nitpicking?

But you got to hand it to Inno. He left me wondering: Was he playing it safe by simply updating his signature styles or was he saving his ammunition for his gala? That question was enough to get everyone excited about his next move.

INNO SOTTO. Playing it safe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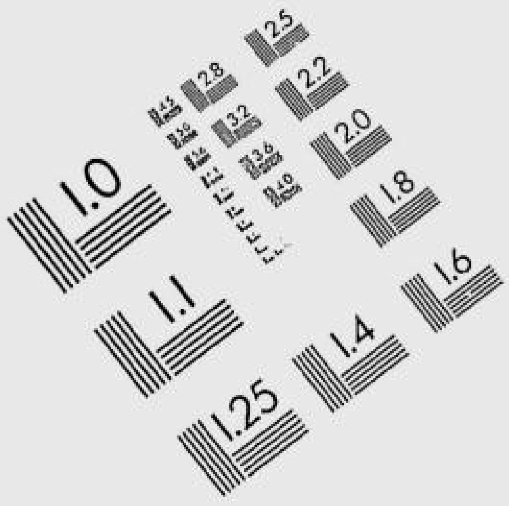
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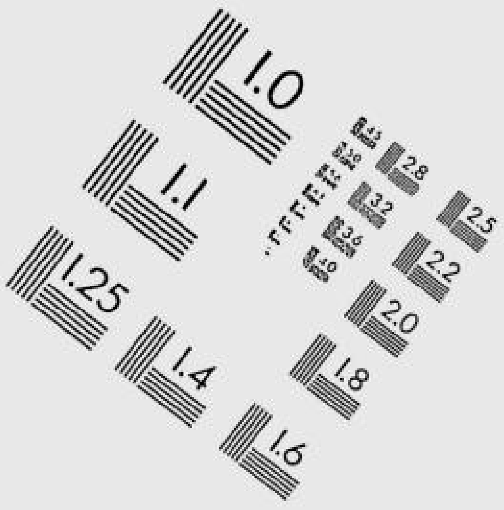
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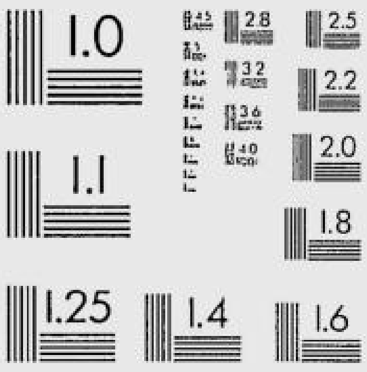
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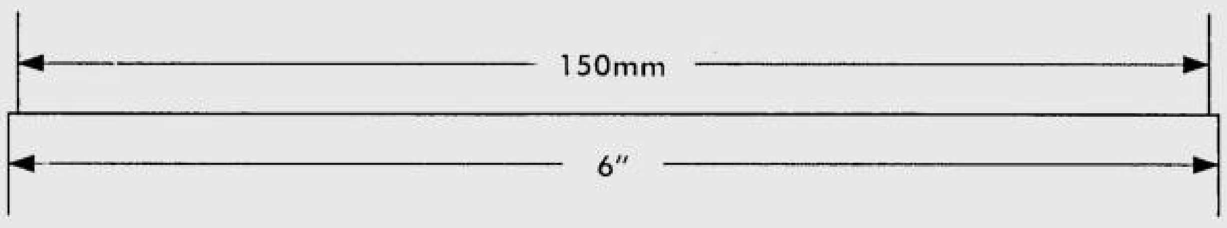

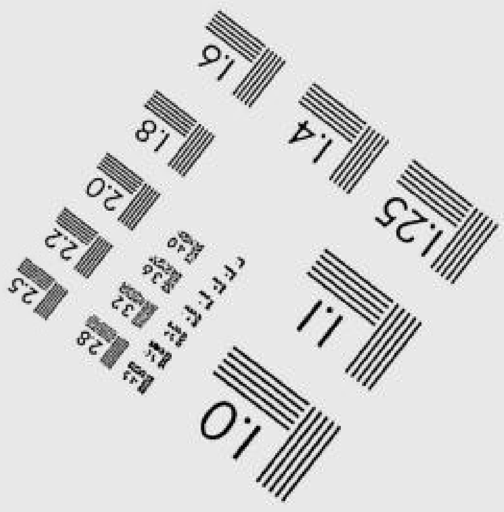
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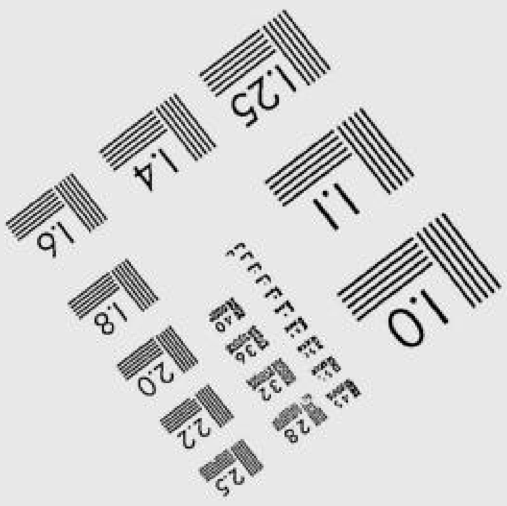
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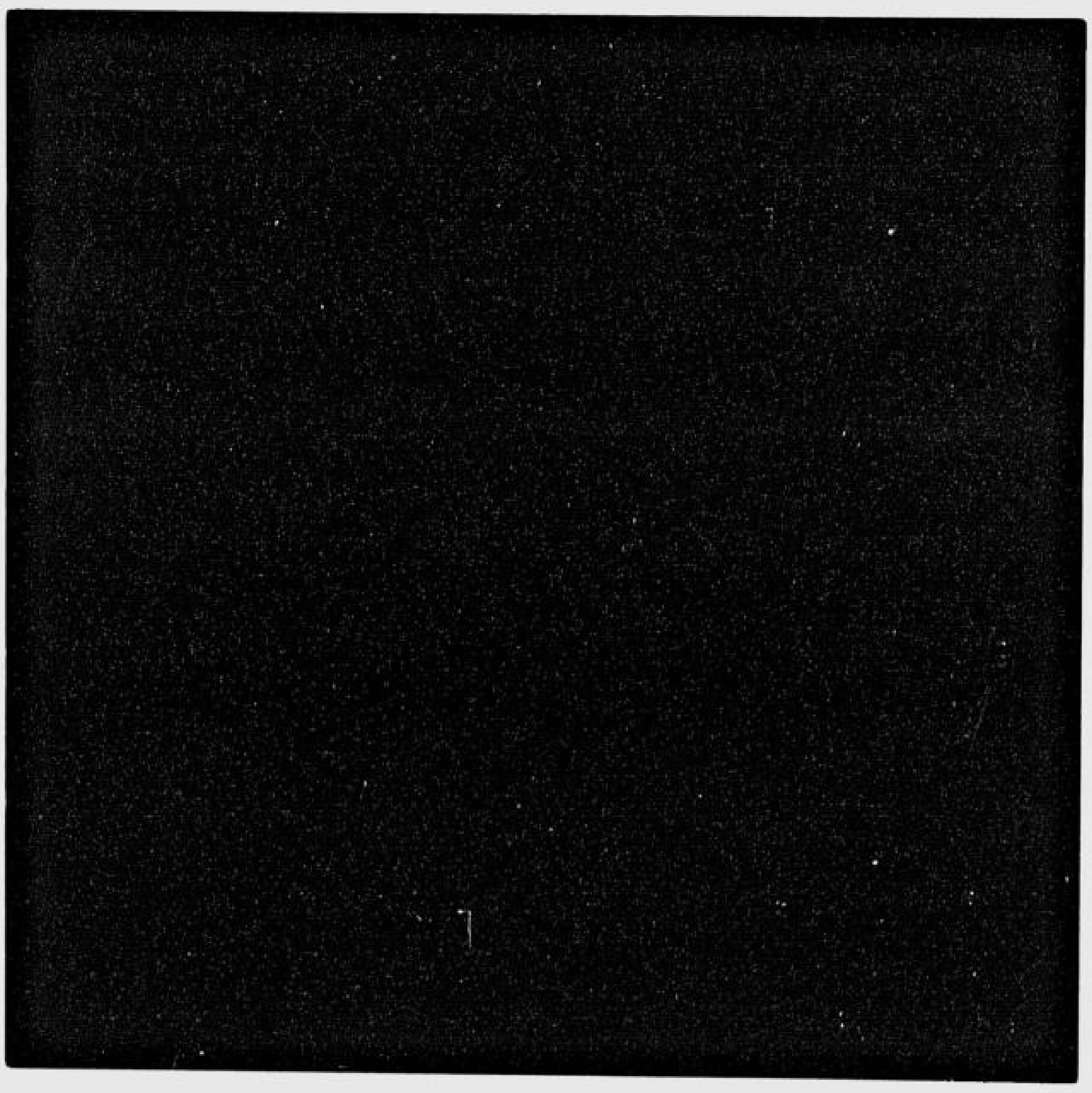

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